

Package 'leans to cautious side'

## King reduces armed forces by 18 per cent

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE THREE armed services are to be cut by 18 per cent and two divisions of the British Army of the Rhine withdrawn in the next five years as part of the long-awaited "options for change" defence review.

Tom King, the defence secretary, refused to put a price on the peace dividend when pressed by the Opposition after he had detailed the proposed cuts in a Commons statement yesterday. But he promised substantial savings towards the end of the five years.

Under the proposals, approved by cabinet earlier in the day, the army will be cut by 40,000, the RAF by 14,000 and the Royal Navy by 3,000. Civilian numbers will also be cut by 21,000.

In Germany, two of the four RAF bases will be closed and the number of squadrons will be reduced from fifteen to nine. The three army divisions in Germany, supplemented by another based in Britain, will be cut to two, with one kept at home but committed to the continent.

Mr King acknowledged at a press conference in the defence ministry that the overall package he had produced after a six-month internal review leaned towards the cautious side. He called the proposals sensible, but insisted that some elements were radical. He cited the halving of army personnel based in West Germany to about 25,000, the RAF base closures there, and a

planned reduction in the submarine fleet from 27 to 16, a move which took the navy by surprise yesterday.

While not as radical as some inside the defence ministry had wanted, the proposed cuts were welcomed by Martin O'Neill, the Labour defence spokesman, as the first step towards changing Britain's armed services in the light of the reduced threat from the Warsaw Pact.

He said it was essential that the financial implications of the cuts should be revealed to the Commons as soon as possible. He also wanted a full debate when Parliament returned from the summer recess.

Mr King was joined at his press conference by Alan Clark, the minister of state for defence procurement, who had produced a paper proposing much wider cuts that was circulated to the prime minister and some of her cabinet colleagues last December.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the measures announced yesterday, he replied that he entirely supported Mr King's proposals.

Now that the basic details of the changes have been announced, the three services face at least six months' work of detailed study before a white paper can be put before the Commons, probably next spring.

Mr King declined to say when the personnel cuts would begin, but sources from all three services did not expect withdrawals from Germany to start for about a year.

Mr King gave reassurance that although some redundancies would probably be necessary, they would not be widespread. Much of the reduction could be dealt with through natural wastage and he planned to ease back on army recruiting, which he expected to have a considerable impact on manpower levels.

While the purpose of the statement yesterday was to reveal the planned cuts in the services, Mr King was also eager to point out that the government wanted to maintain a strong defence and certain areas would be left untouched. These included the nuclear deterrent force, and he confirmed that four Trident submarines, not three, would be ordered to replace the Polaris boats. The government also intended to go ahead with the purchase of tactical air-to-surface missiles (Tasm), to replace the old free-fall bombs, which Mr King said would be deployed in Germany as well as in Britain on Tornado aircraft. Also sac-

rosanct are all the commitments outside the Nato area such as the Falklands, Cyprus, Hong Kong and Belize.

Mr King also disclosed that it was intended to create a special strategic reserve force to be based in Britain that would have responsibility for out-of-area operations.

Mr King told the Commons that the precise shape of Britain's contributions to Nato would have to reflect future discussions with allies. "We have sought to devise a structure for our regular forces appropriate to the new security situation and meeting our essential peacetime operational needs."

Explaining why the proposals were "sensible" and balanced, he said: "There clearly are opportunities but also risks in Europe; and elsewhere some worrying trends - not least the proliferation of sophisticated weapons systems."

"We shall therefore continue to need a robust defence capability as our insurance against the unexpected. Our armed forces, albeit at lower levels, will be as important a safeguard for our country in the future as they have been in the past."

He then hinted that there would be a "service dividend" as well as a peace dividend by insisting that the aim was to have smaller forces that were better equipped, properly trained and housed, and well-motivated.

Apart from the cut in the submarine force, the navy appears to have survived reasonably unscathed. Mr King said that he envisaged a future destroyer/frigate force of around 40 ships. At present there are 48 and, until now, the government has always been committed to maintaining a fleet of around 50 ships. The reduction would be achieved by paying off older, less capable ships.

Another important proposal is that the Buccaneer maritime aircraft force will be phased out, to be replaced by dual-capable Tornados re-deployed from Germany and equipped with Sea Eagle missiles for an anti-ship role. There will also be a 15 per cent reduction in the number of Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft. This will mean a cut of about five of the aircraft.

Mr King said: "We believe that the new force structures we envisage can give us strong and reliable defences, in changing circumstances, and at an affordable cost."

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## British diplomats cut off in Liberia attack

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE British ambassador in Liberia has taken refuge with the Americans after being cut off by fighting in Monrovia. Michael Gore and two other British diplomats were in the outskirts of the city checking that British residents were safe when rebel forces attacked the industrial area.

As it was too dangerous to return to the embassy they stayed at a building owned by the American authorities but not the US embassy. Whitehall sources said they had been

there for two days, while the other two British staff remained at the British Embassy. The incident underlined the dangers facing the 60 Britons still in Monrovia.

The two Royal Navy vessels which had been standing by have left the area. Whitehall sources said they were no longer needed.

A US task force is standing offshore and could evacuate Britons if necessary.

**Photograph, page 8**

## The golden calf emerges from its stable

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

AN AMERICAN archaeological team digging in ancient Canaanite ruins south of Tel Aviv has unearthed a "golden calf", the worship of which angered God and the holy men of the Old Testament.

The find was announced by Dr Laurence Stager, a Harvard university professor involved in the dig for the past six years. He said the calf figurine, which stands about four-and-a-half inches high and long, was the first of its kind to be discovered.

He estimated that the calf was made about 1,550 BC and that it predated the famous



The calf and the pottery shrine in which it was encased

golden calf in the Bible destroyed by Moses.

In Exodus 32, Moses comes down from Mount Sinai to discover that his Israelites, bored in his absence, have

made a molten calf from their women's jewellery. Angered by the blasphemy "he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain", the Old Test-

ament says. He then took the calf and threw it into the fire and ground the remains to a powder.

Calves were worshipped in Egypt as well as in ancient Canaan, the land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan river in what is now Israel.

"The Hebrews came out of the Canaanite milieu," Dr Stager said. "This figurine shows the calf was a religious object in the area centuries before Moses."

The newly-found calf, dated from pottery shards found with it, would have been worshipped prior to 1550 BC, when the area was conquered by the Egyptians. The account of Moses is believed to have

occurred between 1,200 BC and 1,500 BC.

The tiny figure is not actually made of gold. Dr Stager said. The body is of bronze, but burnishing marks show it was polished to a high sheen to resemble gold, the legs and head are of silver, fastened with metal pegs. The horns and tail are of copper wire.

It was found about one month ago inside a shattered pottery vessel that probably served as its display case in a pagan temple near the gate to the ancient port of Ashkelon.

"We are not really sure what the golden calf signifies, whether this size was usual or not and how it was actually worshipped," Dr Stager said.

## BAe to test EC's Rover ruling

By STEPHEN LEATHER

BRITISH Aerospace is refusing to accept the decision by the European Commission that it should be forced to repay the hidden subsidies it was given when the Rover car and Land-Rover businesses were privatised. Yesterday, BAe said it had decided to take its case to the European Court of Justice to test the legality of the decision.

The British government has already accepted the EC verdict, though it disputed the sums involved, arguing that the £33.4 million calculated as the interest saving to the company was only £22 million when the benefit was assessed net of tax.

Nicholas Ridley, the former trade and industry secretary, said he accepted in principle the Commission's ruling requiring BAe to repay to the government the £9.5 million contribution towards its costs in buying out minority shareholders, and the grant of £1.5 million on its acquisition costs for Rover Group two years ago.

But Mr Ridley told the Commons last month that the government was prepared to support BAe in arguments over the true benefit it derived from being allowed to defer payment of the £150 million paid for Rover. He said the arguments could cut the repayment by £11.4 million.

BAe issued a statement last night saying that it had carried out a "careful review" of the Commission's decision and had taken independent professional advice. Spokesman Gerry Wooding said that the decision to test the case before the European Court of Justice was taken to protect shareholders' interests.

"The company has no alternative but to exercise its right to test before the European Court of Justice the legality of that part of the Commission's decision relating to the amount required to be recovered from British Aerospace," he said.

Mr Wooding said that it was too early to say what form BAe's arguments would take. "It would be inappropriate to

Continued on page 22, col 5

## Iraq-Kuwait talks ease Middle East tensions

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, CAIRO, AND JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO, KUWAIT

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt said last night that envoys from Iraq and Kuwait would meet at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia at the weekend to try to defuse the tension between the two Gulf neighbours.

Kuwait's crown prince, meanwhile, had earlier announced that the tiny Gulf state was prepared for direct talks with Iraq on their dispute over territorial claims and oil production. In a surprise move, Esso yesterday increased petrol prices by 4p a gallon in Britain in anticipation of today's Opec meeting in Geneva.

As intense diplomatic efforts to contain the threat of war between Iraq and Kuwait continued, Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the emirate's crown prince and prime minister, went some way to meeting demands made by Iraq as conditions for not resorting to military force.

His offer was made as tension in the strategic region remained at its most dangerous level since the end of the Gulf war 23 months ago, with some 30,000 Iraqi combat troops massed along a hundred miles of the desert

border with Kuwait, supported by at least 200 Soviet-built tanks.

"Everyone knows that Kuwait wanted and still wants in all sincerity and enthusiasm to meet our brothers in Iraq to reach an understanding in a brotherly atmosphere on a formula which will serve the interest of the two brotherly nations," the sheikh said in a speech distributed by the official Kuwait news agency, adding: "I am optimistic that the efforts of the (mediating) brothers will produce a formula and the good ties between Kuwait and Iraq will return."

According to diplomatic sources, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who has so far demonstrated little appetite for compromise, agreed to refrain from any attack providing the Kuwaitis met for direct talks and also agreed to pay reparations of \$2.4 billion (£1.3 billion) for oil Iraq insists was extracted from wells dug on its territory.

The Kuwaiti government was yesterday struggling to maintain an air of normality and imposed a total blackout on the news about the Iraqi

military buildup and the subsequent "Short Notice" naval manoeuvres being conducted by the US Navy and the United Arab Emirates forces.

Esso's price increase came after sharp rises in the oil price in world markets during the past three weeks which were triggered by the threat of military action in Kuwait (Martin Barrow writes). As a result of the increase a gallon of four-star will cost 194p or 44.9p a litre and premium unleaded 190.5p (41.9p).

Esso's action is expected to start another round of price rises around the country, although competitors were last night undecided about whether to follow suit immediately or wait for the dust to settle after the Opec meeting. A spokesman for BP, one of the largest retailers, said: "No decision has been taken yet."

Esso said that the increase was inevitable after rises of up to \$30 a tonne of gasoline on world markets over the past three weeks.

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**Can Opec survive? page 10**  
**Prices to rise, page 23**

## 'Dazed' Carey to succeed Runcie

By CLIFFORD LONGLEY AND RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Rt Rev George Carey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, is to succeed Dr Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury, it was announced yesterday.

Dr Carey, aged 54, who said he was "dazed and unworthy", is by far the youngest Archbishop of Canterbury in recent history. The announcement, three months earlier than expected, took the Church of England by surprise. Although it was not unexpected that the next archbishop would come from the church's evangelical wing, Dr Carey was not the prime candidate.

He is the son of a hospital porter, a true Cockney "born within the sound of Bow bells who left school at 15. His name had hardly figured in previous speculation, which put the Most Rev John Habgood, Archbishop of York, and the Rt Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, as the leading contenders.

**Challenges ahead, page 2**  
**Lambeth leapfrog, page 10**  
**Diary, page 10**

## Overhaul for police urged

MPs yesterday called for a radical overhaul of Britain's policing system to replace the "Heath Robinson" character of the present structure.

The Commons home affairs select committee said it represented generations of piecemeal solutions. Sir John Wheeler, chairman, spoke of the glaring deficiencies of a system that consumes over £4 billion of public funds annually. **Page 3**

## Miners' deal

The International Miners Organisation is to allow its finances to be examined as part of a deal aimed at preventing Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, facing court action by his own union for the recovery of Russian money. **Page 2**

## No magic circle

Members of a project investigating circles and patterns appearing on corn fields in southern England were enraged yesterday after finding markings in an area close to almost £1 million of observation equipment were a man-made hoax. **Page 3**

## Arms deadline

President Gorbachev yesterday issued a presidential decree, instructing all unauthorized units on Soviet territory to disband within fifteen days and surrender weapons. **Page 7**

## Diamond sales

The Swiss arm of South Africa's De Beers diamond group has signed a five year exclusive contract worth \$5 billion with the Soviet Union to market rough diamonds. **Page 23**

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# 'Dazed' archbishop steels himself for challenges to come

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

FOR a man who admitted to being "dazed and unworthy" after his nomination as the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Rev Dr George Carey fielded questions on homosexuals, women priests, the poll tax and the environment with admirable equanimity.

Dr Carey, who a few days ago was planning nothing more important than his summer holiday and who admitted to being an outsider in the race to Canterbury, was almost as bemused as the journalists invited to question him at Lambeth Palace after his nomination was announced yesterday, three months earlier than expected.

Flanked by his wife Eileen and his four children, the Bishop of Bath and Wells emphasised the importance of

the environment, ecumenism and social issues. Then, with impeccable modesty, he corrected a reporter who said he had been a bishop for three years. "I have only been bishop for two and a half years, and that was part of the surprise of my appointment. I have never shirked a responsibility or a challenge. I do not fear it, although obviously one is full of apprehension."

The prospective archbishop is so junior that he does not even hold one of 26 seats accorded to bishops in the House of Lords, although when he takes up his appointment he will automatically be given a place.

Dr Carey, like the book-makers who ranked him as a 20-1 outsider until yesterday morning, did not expect to be chosen. "I am quite surprised."

My name was quoted around as an outsider and I wonder how many people put money on it. One is still a little dizzy from the speed of all this," he said. "I only had a letter last Thursday. We have been very, very busy since then."

The bishop denied that he was a compromise choice. "I have never been a compromise person. I hope it will be on the basis of what I have to offer that I was chosen. Sadly all too often the church seems light years away from many people; people like the ones I grew up with," he said. "I and my colleagues will want to reassure them that the Church of England is for them; it is their church, and a warm welcome awaits them in it."

"The ordination of women is obviously one thing that I hope we will settle as a church. I have always been a supporter of the ordination of women to the priesthood. I am well aware of the fears of many people. People are going to be hurt. As the Archbishop of Canterbury I want to be a pastoral archbishop and care for those people who are going to be hurt, whatever decision is made."

Dr Carey said that one of his priorities will be the environment and what he described as a "green discipleship". He said he would continue "thumping away" on those issues.

The bishop said he tried to practise his beliefs in his daily life. "My wife and I have always lived very simply in whatever job we have had. I do not think that will ever change." Although Dr Carey conceded that they would be moving to grander surroundings, he said: "We will try to work out the ethical consequences of this."

He emphasised that he intends to maintain his links with charities which help the elderly and the homeless. "They are deeply important to me. It is part and parcel of the commitment we all have in the church that Christian faith has social and political implications."

Dr Carey said he was anxious not to be labelled as the "evangelical archbishop" although he did not deny an evangelical influence. "There is no doubt that the evangelical movement is perhaps stronger in the Church of England than it has ever been. I am an Anglican bishop. Over the years I have gained a lot from catholic spirituality, from liberal studies of the bible, from the charismatic renewal movement."

"I will not deny what shaped me. But I want to affirm that I am Anglican first and foremost and thank God for that."

Regarding the issue of homosexual clergy, he said: "We must be seen to be a church which is faithful to scripture and to our Christian heritage and which has a high standard of morality expected of clergy."

When questioned about debate surrounding the Bishop of Durham's views on the virgin birth and physical resurrection, Dr Carey said he was fond of Dr David Jenkins and regarded him as a caring pastor. "But on many of these issues I disagree with him," he said. "I will want to stay with the tradition of the Christian church, with the bible and the traditions of the scripture and I'm not going to deny those."

Clifford Longley, page 10

## East end boy who grew up to be a fervent evangelist

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND RUTH GLEDHILL

GEORGE Carey, aged 54, was born within the sound of Bow Bells in London's east end, the son of a hospital porter. He was baptised as a baby, but was not a regular churchgoer until attracted into his local Christian community as a teenager.

Although he qualified to attend a grammar school, he completed his secondary education at Biffnons Secondary Modern School in Barking and left school at 15.

Dr Carey said yesterday he did not regret his roots. "I was unchurched for many years. It was only the warmth of the local community that pulled me into the openness of the Christian church and its traditions. I do not see that background as being a problem to me at all. I look back and I thank God for it. I see that as being one of the creative elements of my ministry."

Those who have known Dr Carey during his career speak of him affectionately as an inspirational and passionate evangelist with considerable diplomatic skills. The Cockney tones of his youth may have refined during his travels around the provinces but he has not lost sight of his working-class origins.

Quick to remove a tie and more natural out of his Sunday best, he is described by one former parishioner as "really quite shabby. He never wasted much time on looking smart." In his lecturing, he was "as happy with a brickie as with a nuclear physicist. We had all sorts and George could mix with any of them," a college colleague remembers.

Dr Carey was first employed as an office boy with the London Electricity Board, until beginning his National Service at 18 in the RAF. He returned to the LEB but had already decided to seek ordination and studied to gain a place at King's College London and the London College of Divinity and served his first curacy for four years at St Mary's, Islington.

A warm personality and ability to mix easily in any social environment stand out in the memories of those who have worked with him. Above all, he is described repeatedly as a "unifying influence", whether encouraging parish-

ioners to rally round a church modernisation or in ecumenism. From 1975 to 1982 he was vicar of St Nicholas Church, Durham, where his parishioners recall how he encouraged colleagues to spend Christmas eve in a cardboard box in Durham market square.

While he is much admired, as affable, hospitable and good company, he will not balk at confrontation. "He will never go for the lowest common denominator. He has the breadth of vision to get out of the ruts of ecclesiastical allegiance," the Rev John Field, a former colleague at St John's College, Nottingham, where he was lecturer from 1970-5, says.

In 1982 Dr Carey was appointed principal of Trinity College, Bristol, and during his five years at Bristol served as an elected member of the General Synod. He has been fervent in his ecumenical work. During his period as Bishop of Bath and Wells, from 1987 to date, he has combined both his pastoral and teaching experience by forming a series of teaching missions in the diocese.

His wife, Eileen, aged 51, is a nurse and works part-time in a nursing home. She said: "I have always been in partnership in ministry with my husband." They have four children: Rachel, aged 27, a housewife and mother, Mark, aged 25, a social worker, Andrew, aged 24, features editor of the *Church of England Newspaper*, and Liz, aged 18, a trainee nurse. Dr Carey in his spare time watches football and used to go jogging until he gave it up two years ago. He said yesterday: "I walk my dog, listen to music, relax with my wife." He has been a supporter of Arsenal Football Club for many years.

Ladbroke's clients across the south of England placed a total of £2,000 on Dr Carey, the 20-1 outsider, in the first few minutes of business yesterday. Payment on winning bets was suspended while the late flutter was investigated, but the chain later agreed to pay out on all bets. William Hill, which took £20,000 in bets since opening the book in March, lost about £8,000, much of it on the £280 worth bets placed on him yesterday.

## How the primate was chosen

DR CAREY was nominated as the next Archbishop after the Crown Appointments Commission submitted two names to the prime minister (Ruth Gledhill writes).

One of his strongest supporters is believed to be Ruth Echeles, a member of the commission since 1987, a theologian and a former principal of St Joseph's College, Durham. Dr Carey ministered to many of her students while a vicar in the city. The two

bishops elected to the commission were the Rt Rev John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury and the Rt Rev Ronald Bowly, Bishop of Southwark.

The other voting members of the commission were: Viscount Caldecote, chairman, Canon Peter Boulton, Canon Colin Craston, Canon Michael O'Connor, Oswald Clark, Sir Timothy Hoare, the Rt Rev David Smith, Canon Jesse Sage, David Kemp and Barbara Leeming. The com-

mission sat in secret and its members cannot comment on its proceedings.

Nominations were considered until a shortlist probably of three or four was agreed. After further discussion, a secret ballot would have selected two names, with a final vote to see if there was a two-thirds majority. Margaret Thatcher could choose either, whether or not a preference was expressed, to submit to the Queen for approval.



From the collection that celebrated Yves Saint Laurent's personal re-appearance in Paris: a suede batwing-sleeved three-quarter length coat (left) and a flight of fancy in orange, red and yellow pheasant feathers

## Saint Laurent and his pure line are back

From LIZ SMITH, FASHION EDITOR, IN PARIS

THE couture collection shown by Yves Saint Laurent in Paris yesterday was not, in fact, a vintage one. It rates a place in fashion's history, however, not just for the innovative circular cut that he has sliced into a new silhouette, but because the man himself was definitively back.

Throughout the lengthy but low-key show his presence could be sensed, in the dramatic arc of a new poncho, or the wide cut of a sleeve carved deep into the body of his new chemise dress. His soft new line was followed through relentlessly: from the earlier violet wool, or chestnut suede cocoon coats for day, to

the puffball skirt which is a development of the pouf that St Laurent first created when at Dior in 1958.

Flying chiffon one-shouldered over-dresses, with the same loose batwing sleeves, fluttered and shadowed across the sheaths of matching chiffon underneath, suspended from the finest of shoestring straps.

When Saint Laurent, in sand silk suit and striped shirt and tie, appeared, through the backdrop of sunflowers to walk down the long catwalk at the end of his show, his devoted friends Catherine Deneuve, Paloma Picasso and Zizi

Jeanmaire, and New York's society clients led by Ivana Trump rose to their feet and blew him the kisses that he had been waiting for since his return to the role as the leader of Paris fashion.

It was an appearance that he had been unable to make in March, when he was too ill to appear at his ready-to-wear show. A bulletin announced that he was in hospital suffering from "overwhelming nervous exhaustion".

Backstage after the show, faced with a battery of television cameras and well-wishers, he kept repeating: "The purity of the line is what matters."

## Enquiry to test reading in schools

By TOM GILES

THE government is to investigate claims that reading standards have fallen among seven-year-olds, John MacGregor announced yesterday.

In an answer to a parliamentary question, the education secretary said that he would instruct Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools to focus on the teaching of reading in their autumn reports on primary school standards. He would also ask the Schools Examinations and Assessment Council to report on existing evidence among local education authorities.

The investigation comes amid growing concern over children's reading standards. A confidential report, published last month by *The Times Educational Supplement*, said that half of 347,000 seven-year-olds in nine local authorities were considered extremely poor readers.

The tests, conducted by educational psychologists, found that children's reading scores had fallen overall by 3.23 per cent in the past five years, indicating a marked decline. The psychologists said that a shift of even 0.5 per cent in a population of 5,000 children was significant. Mr MacGregor said yesterday that he was greatly concerned at the suggestion that reading standards were falling.

The minister also outlined the basis of new assessment arrangements for seven-year-olds in the national curriculum's core subjects of English, mathematics and science. The new measures which will be introduced from next year, make up the first key stage of standard attainment targets.

Children are to be tested more for their ability to use and understand language than on their handwriting or spelling skills, with scores weighted in favour of sentence construction and punctuation.

## Judicial statistics show divorce rate on increase

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RISING divorce rates and a greater percentage of acquittals in the crown court during 1989 are shown in the latest judicial statistics published yesterday.

There were 184,610 petitions for divorce last year, three-quarters of which were issued on behalf of wives, making the total the highest for five years. The higher figure in 1985 reflected the first full year of changes in divorce proceedings, the number of years of marriage after which a petition could be filed was reduced from three to one.

The statistics showed an increased percentage of defendants were acquitted in the crown court during 1989, particularly in London. The percentage of defendants acquitted in England and Wales rose from 13 per cent to 15 per cent (including both those submit-

ting pleas of guilty and not guilty). The number of acquittals in London rose from 24 per cent to 29 per cent.

The number of maintenance orders issued for children fell by 18 per cent last year, from 50,035 in 1988 to 40,846. The Lord Chancellor's department yesterday said there was no clear explanation for the reduction. "One reason might be that more people of low means are getting divorced, and therefore maintenance orders cannot be enforced; or that more career women, who do not want to be have the tie of a maintenance order, are getting divorced."

Nearly half the divorce petitions, which rose by 1 per cent compared with 1988, were filed on the ground of unreasonable behaviour. There were 478 petitions for nullity and 2,741 for judicial separa-

tion last year compared with 604 and 2,925 in 1988.

The figures also show that although the number of "clean-break" lump sum orders has increased divorcing spouses have increased steadily in recent years, last year there was a 4 per cent reduction to 34,201.

The number of cases dealt with last year in the county courts, which were already facing a heavy workload, reflected a 14 per cent increase on the 1988 figures, with 2.6 million cases started.

The statistics also showed a rapid rise in the work of the county courts over the past decade. The number of cases that came before county court judges last year was nearly double the level for 1938 and more than 78 per cent higher than ten years ago.

Ninety per cent of the cases involved claims for money, only, and about 60 per cent of cases started were for amounts of less than £500, and could therefore have been dealt with by the small claims arbitration procedure.

A call for radical action to restore public confidence in official statistics relating to unemployment, the health service and inflation was rejected by the government yesterday (Douglas Broom writes).

A statement from the Central Statistical Office said the government had no intention of accepting the recommendations of a working party that included Sir Claus Moser, its former director.

The working party, set up by the Royal Statistical Society in response to concern about the reliability of official figures, said the service must be protected from interference by ministers. It called for the creation of a centralised service and said legislation would be needed to safeguard the autonomy and constitutional position of official figures.

## Paris deal allows NUM to examine finances

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE International Miners' Organisation is to allow its finances to be examined as part of a deal aimed at preventing Arthur Scargill, the miner's president, facing court action by his own union for the recovery of £1.4 million of Russian money.

Armed with the agreement, lawyers representing the National Union of Mineworkers will ask the High Court today to suspend action against Mr Scargill and three others while accountants examine the books of the Paris-based organisation. If the peace formula, arrived at after talks in Paris, succeeds, it will save the union from the embarrassment of putting its president in the dock to defend alleged breaches of trust actions.

Gordon Butler, one of four NUM committee members trying to recover the money said yesterday: "There will be further meetings to examine the books. If there are any funds belonging to the NUM they will come back."

In his report of the stewardship of the NUM under Mr Scargill and Peter Heathfield, the general secretary, Gavin Lightman, QC, says: "The money collected by Soviet and Eastern Bloc miners should have gone to the union, not to a fund controlled by the IMO."

It became clear yesterday that the Paris talks were complicated by the uncompromising attitude of Alain Simon, the IMO general secretary. Both sides are hoping that today's High Court application will enable negotiations leading to at least some of the money, in a Dublin bank account, being transferred to the NUM.

After the negotiations, George Rees, another member of the committee, said: "It would be better and far less costly if we could resolve this out of court." That prospect will depend to some extent on whether Mr Simon will drop his insistence that the donations were not meant specifically to relieve hardship among striking British miners.

## Outcome of tax cap for High Court

One of Britain's largest teaching unions is to challenge a Labour authority to the High Court over a decision to ax 22 teaching jobs as part of spending cuts introduced after the council's poll tax was capped (Tom Giles writes).

The 135,000-strong Association of Teachers' Education Association in South Yorkshire acted, illegally in approving the closure of the town's music centre without properly consulting the 22 staff.

It also maintains that no staff were given the chance to attend a hearing on the matter, as entitled under teachers' national conditions.

## Geologists quit

The Geologists' Association has withdrawn from next week's festival of the Earth at the Natural History Museum because of the museum's refusal of sponsorship from companies registered in South Africa. The association said it did not want to be caught in a political argument. Twenty environmental and conservation organisations are to take part in the festival from Thursday to Sunday.

## Boys separated

A boy aged 14 has been ordered to stay away from a boy of 12 during the summer holidays after admitting an assault on the younger child in May. Liverpool County Court was told there had been a background of incidents between the two, both in and out of schooltime. The younger boy's application for an injunction preventing the other from approaching him was adjourned.

## Ruling reserved

An appeal hearing by a suspected IRA bomber against extradition to Britain concluded at the High Court in Dublin after just two days of intense legal argument. Desmond Ellis, aged 37, from Finglas in Dublin, is wanted in Britain on two warrants alleging possession of explosives and conspiracy to cause explosions in Britain between 1981 and 1983. Judgment was reserved until next Tuesday.

## CORRECTION

A photograph yesterday of the Emir of Kuwait incorrectly described him as Sheikh Sabah al-Sabah. The Emir is Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah.



McCann: not been told of the four people killed

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

EXPRESSIONS of anger and grief in Northern Ireland yesterday held a special poignancy as the province faced up to the first murder of a nun in the past 21 years of troubles.

As the police made the almost routine announcement that two men were being questioned about a serious crime in the Armagh area after the IRA landmine explosion that killed Sister Catherine Dunne and three policemen on Tuesday, local news programmes spoke of their horror.

In the past year there has been nothing so moving as the voice of a close friend of Sister Dunne who spoke to RTE radio about the woman who had attended her

wedding and was devoted to the children she cared for in her work.

"I am so sad - she was just one great person. I feel angry that they did this to her. She helped so many people and the fact that they (the IRA) saw her coming and pressed the button..." She said Sister Dunne had a great ability to communicate with the children she cared for at St Joseph's training school, Middletown, near Armagh. "She was a very loving, giving person, always there with a hug when they needed it and equally, always just there when I needed her."

Sister Dunne's death makes a mockery of the IRA's stated policy of doing all in its power to avoid so-called civilian casualties. A brief survey of the land around the site of

the explosion, on the Killylea road two miles from Armagh, shows that the seven-man gang that detonated the mine from a commandeered house would have seen her car approaching.

Sister Dunne, who was 37, died on the way to hospital. Kathy McCann, aged 25, a social worker to whom she was giving a lift, was in a stable condition in hospital in Craigavon with injuries to her head and shoulder. She had not been told of the four deaths. The families of the three dead policemen were visited by Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the RUC, and his wife yesterday. William Hanson, aged 37, who was married with four children, is to be buried today, as will Joshua Willis, aged 35, also married, with two children. David

Stieritt, who was 34 and single, is to be buried tomorrow.

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, put out a statement yesterday by Martin McGuinness, the Londonderry-based member of the party's national executive. It said Sinn Fein deeply regretted all deaths resulting from the "conflict", whether they be those of active participants... or innocent victims, like Sister Catherine Dunne.

The statement went on: "Our sorrow at these deaths is genuine and profound but will be abused by our political opponents who will cynically exploit these events for their own political purposes." The North Armagh Provisionals said in a statement to the Press Association that the killing of Sister Dunne was caused by fluke circumstances.

Dr Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic bishop of Down and Connor, described the bombing as an appalling ruthless and irresponsible act.

Dr Daly, who met Sister Dunne during a church service in Ballymena last Sunday, said she was a popular and vivacious woman. He said that the men who killed her and the policemen should ask themselves where their campaign was leading them. "They should ask themselves," he said, "is this the campaign they thought they were engaging upon when they got involved, or is it in any way advancing the aims which they cherish."

Dr Daly added that the IRA should know that its campaign was "stuck without hope" of any possible advancement towards its stated aims.

Tory critic outmanoeuvres poli

Inspector calls for TVs in all cells

QC sees d



## Tory MPs critical of 'outmoded' policing

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A RADICAL new structure should be created to replace the outmoded, inefficient and Heath Robinson character of policing in Britain, a group of MPs said yesterday.

### Inspector calls for TVs in jail cells

A SCHEME to allow prisoners to rent televisions for their cells should be considered, the chief inspector of prisons, said yesterday in his annual report (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Judge Tumm said that too many prisoners were either deprived of work or education opportunities or were doing dull, repetitive jobs for derisory pay. Higher wages would stimulate productivity and open the prospect of several innovative schemes. One might be allowing prisoners to use their earnings to pay for televisions.

The report's dominant theme is the need for greater efforts to prepare inmates for release to reduce recidivism. At the moment, half of prisoners reoffend, Judge Tumm says. Standards of education and work in jails varies sharply and suggests that too often they are used simply to get prisoners out of their cells rather than to produce the constructive attitudes that make further offending less likely.

"Far too often we find a good training course in bricklaying or welding followed by no work in which the craftsman can use his new skills during his remaining years in prison," the report says. "Real work experience in the sense of apt and useful work to encourage a man trained for it was not common in the prisons we inspected."

The report adds: "Training must colour all aspects of a prisoner's life from his reception to his discharge."

Judge Tumm urges the Home Office to consider giving inmates a choice between eating in their cells or with other prisoners and ending restrictions on the number of letters they could write. He also suggests that visiting hours for remand prisoners might be increased.



Judge Tumm: Better training sought

ted committee and an advocate of a centrally funded national structure, later drove home the point when he spoke of the glaring deficiencies and incompetence of a system that consumed more than £4 billion of public funds annually. He thought it staggering that over 200 years after the magistrate Sir John Fielding, who founded the Bow Street Runners, had called for a national force, politicians and chief constables were still "fiddling around" with the concept.

The committee's criticism that the system lacked proper accountability may prove particularly telling as its defenders always say the merit of having 52 geographically organised forces is that it guarantees responsiveness to local needs and complaints. The MPs, however, say accountability has become increasingly muddled with the emergence of cross-county squads such as the National Drugs Intelligence Unit.

There were also no clear lines of command or authority as three government departments had big policing responsibilities and chief constables belonged to an association that was a "quasi-trade union, quasi-directional body". Police authorities, the third leg of the structure, were "curious amalgams" of magistrates and councillors.

Sir John and the committee's other Tory members think a national force should be set up, funded by the Home Office. At present the costs are shared between central and local government.

The report, which urges the government to come forward with reform proposals, says: "The time has come to devise a structure which will allow the abandonment of piecemeal solutions and the Heath Robinson structures which have up until now allowed the police service to make do with a system essentially designed in a Victorian Britain."

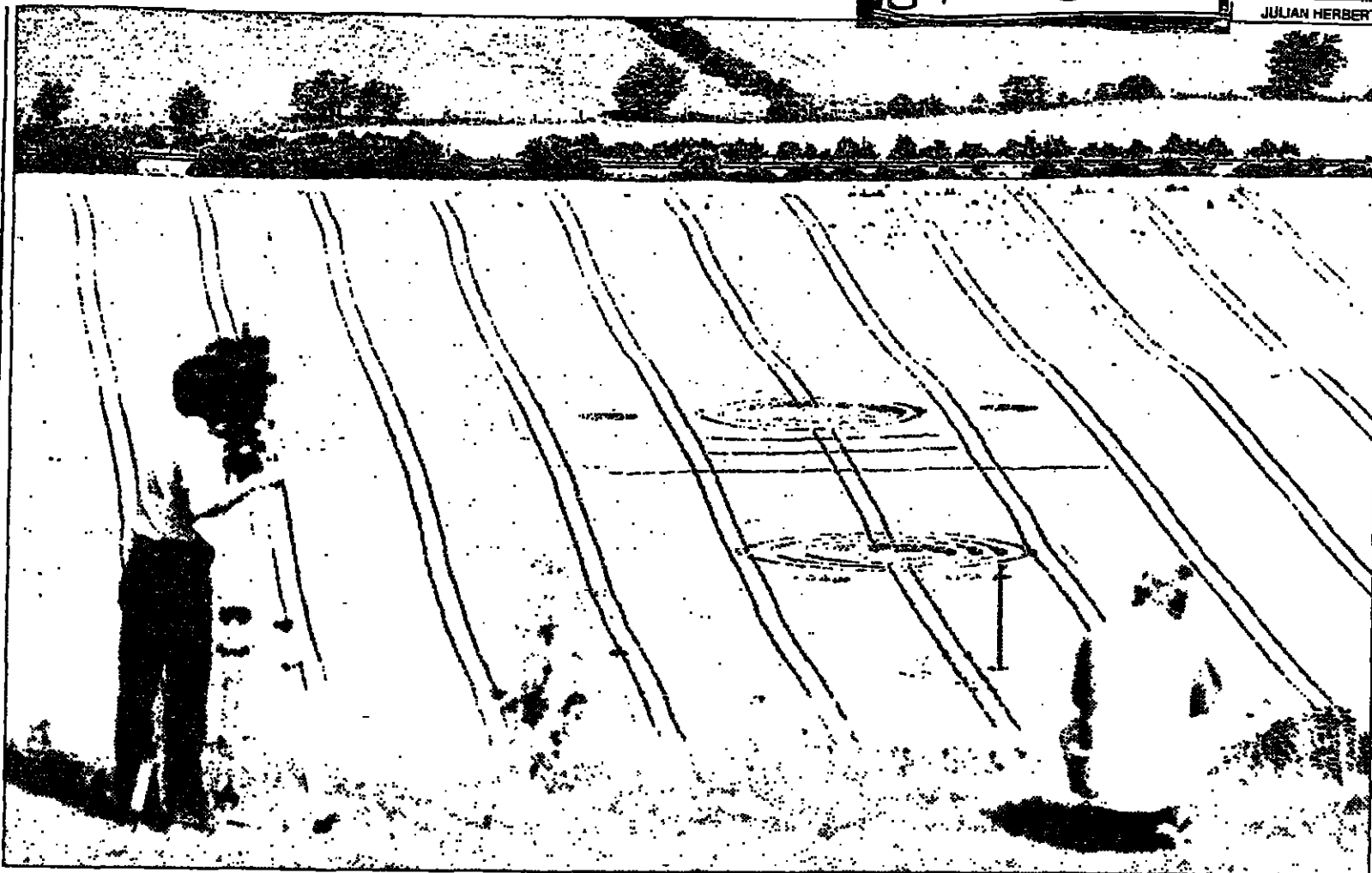
The committee, whose controversial critique emerged from an examination of the extent of co-operation between European police forces, also called for the creation of a voluntary identity card system in Britain. Pointing out that the holding of an identity card was compulsory in most European Community states, it said the introduction of such a document in Britain would enable holders to instantly identify themselves and would encourage them to travel more widely abroad. In evidence, however, David Waddington, the home secretary, and police officers were less keen.

The establishment of a Community-wide identity card should be an aim of Britain's presidency of the Community in 1992, it adds.

The MPs regretted Mr Waddington's aversion to the idea of police within the Community combining operationally as well as in intelligence gathering. They urged him to commission research to examine the viability of cross-frontier units being set up to tackle threats such as terrorism or drugs trafficking.

The committee also said there was a need for greater liaison over legal matters, particularly on extradition.

Responding to the call for national identity cards, the National Council for Civil Liberties said there was no such thing as a voluntary card. If one were to be introduced it would lead to greater discrimination by the police against non-white citizens.



The circles that appeared overnight in a Wiltshire field, the result of a practical joke that has infuriated researchers

## Scientists protest as hoaxers create a magic circle

By GEORGE HILL

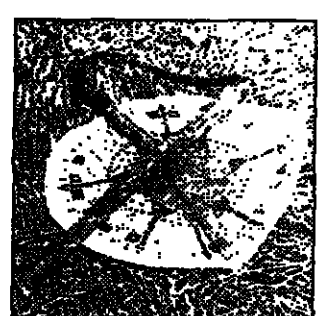
SOMEONE was having a good laugh yesterday morning, either on Mars or in Fleet Street. But high on the chalk ramparts of the prehistoric fort at Westbury Hill in Wiltshire, Colin Andrews was fuming.

Almost £1 million worth of equipment had been assembled at the fort, a vantage point overlooking 60 square miles of rippling cornfields, in the hope of catching the moment of birth of one of the mysterious patterns that have been observed in southern England more often than ever this summer.

Mr Andrews, a leader of the joint project that involves Japanese television, the BBC and Circles Phenomena Research (Mr Andrews' organisation), had been roused at dawn by jubilant colleagues with the news that a series of circles and parallel lines had appeared in a field scarcely a mile from the project's low-light video cameras. But, on inspection, the rings proved to be man-made.

In front of the cameras of the international media, Mr Andrews could only declare his rage at the deception. "Whoever created that circle has demonstrated to young people that it is no bad thing to go on to private property and destroy crops, and to hoodwink a serious research project," he said. "I saw at once that we had an obvious hoax. The pattern is not consistent with the development of this perfectly genuine phenomenon, and an inspection on the ground showed very severe damage to the corn - bruising, severance and disturbance consistent with human feet. This is quite unlike the pattern one sees in genuine circles."

In the centre of last night's largest circle, which had three concentric rings, the investigators found a Ouija board, two sticks forming a cross, and a coil of red insulated electric cable. "The incident has demonstrated that our equipment can tell within seconds whether a ring is a hoax or not," Mr Andrews declared, making the best of the case. "The equipment even detected the heat from the bodies of the perpetrators." But a BBC producer involved in the



The cross and Ouija board found at the site

project was more cautious: "Our people watching the tapes during the night saw nothing. At dawn, we saw that the circles had appeared. When we checked the tapes, we saw that the circles had appeared at about 3am. There were lights to be seen on the tape, but it is possible that they were dew drops on the front of the camera."

Michael King, joint owner of the field where the rings appeared, said: "I have always believed that these things were just practical jokes. They are just a nuisance to us. It gets up my nose that people think it's amusing to go on to private property and destroy good crops, just for fun."

Mr Andrews, who has been hunting crop circles for 12 years, did not let the disappointment shake his faith that there is a genuine non-human phenomenon to be studied, and that it is caused by processes unknown to science. "I would not disagree that supernatural is the most appropriate word in our language today for what we are seeing in genuine circles. But I am sure that what is regarded as supernatural today will be science tomorrow."

"There is fairly powerful evidence that we are dealing with some form of consciousness, aware of its location and responding to colour and man-made features. Year by year, the circles have increased in complexity, in a process that has evolved more quickly than any natural phenomenon recorded. This is a very deep subject."

He would not enlarge on whether the signs contained any message. "I have thoughts, but I cannot divulge anything that might damage this research programme."

## Hailstones, hedgehogs or simply summer madness

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE only theory bearing any credence after yesterday's crop circle fiasco is the one cherished by scientists at the Meteorological Office in Bracknell. "We have people looking at these things in their spare time, and the consensus is that they are a glorified hoax," a spokesman said.

He said that scientists had been unable to identify atmospheric features capable of carving circular, rectangular or dumb-bell shapes in wheatfields. The Meteorological Office had suggested that they could be the torches of pranksters, even before researchers admitted that yesterday morning's filming of orange lights was a hoax.

Many dedicated enthusiasts would to some extent concur with the weathermen's view, but Archibald Roy, professor of astronomy at Glasgow University and president of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, said that hoaxers could not account for all of this year's 400 recorded flattenings.

The widely held view of the phenomenon is that it is exclusive to the southern half of England, and confined to the last ten years. However,

crop circles have been found as far north as Grampian in Scotland and, according to Terence Meaden, former associate professor of physics at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, and founder of the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation, evidence of "mowing devils" dates back at least to the Middle Ages.

Professor Roy said that there was even speculation that 2,000 years ago, in an attempt to placate the gods, Britain's Celtic ancestors designed their stone circles at places such as Stonehenge and Avebury, after witnessing crop circles.

The most scientifically respected theory is the one being advanced by Dr Meaden, who believes that the topography of Wiltshire and Hampshire and the region's high frequency of cool sea breezes causes the formation of mini whirlwinds.

As they break down over fields, a doughnut-shaped eddy within the column sweeps downwards, swirling the crop into a characteristic shape. The lights linked with crop circle phenomenon are caused by particles of pollen, dust and salt that have be-

come charged by the whirlwind's intense spin, Dr Meaden claimed.

Critics believe such a neat explanation fails to answer this summer's appearance of elaborate circles within circles, and increasingly complicated shapes. The idea that circles could be caused by the downdraught from the spinning blades of helicopters have been dismissed by the military, who claim that they could make shapes in crops only if they flew upside down. Giant melting hailstones, possibly formed by aircraft discharging sewage, UFOs, ghosts, small holes in the ozone layer allowing ultra violet light to weaken crops, soil disorders, spreading underground fungi, and rutting deer are all theories that have their supporters and detractors.

A belief that frenzied hedgehogs, running in circles, are to blame has also gained little credence among wildlife experts who claim that 40,000 well organised animals would be needed to make just one small circle.

Science and Technology, pages 14-15

## MPs seek improved pay in residential homes

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PAY and working conditions in residential homes must be improved to safeguard standards of care in the community, the Commons social services select committee suggested yesterday.

The committee highlighted evidence from the Greater Manchester Low Pay Unit that showed that rates of pay in private residential homes were considerably lower than in local authority homes. Yesterday the unit said that it had examples where care assistants were paid only £1.75 an hour in private homes compared to the local government rate of £3.21.

A woman who worked permanently on night duty in a residential home in Salford had no overtime pay and no paid holidays, but still received only £1.75 an hour, the unit reported. In its evidence to the committee, the unit calls for local authorities to be given wider statutory powers to set "proper" pay rates and conditions of employment.

Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Denton and Reddish, told a press conference yesterday that in some parts of the country there was an overprovision of private homes. As the new reforms came into effect he feared that private homes would compete with each other to offer lower prices resulting in even poorer working conditions. That would be extremely worrying in terms of the standard of care.

The committee report also calls on the government to set up independent inspection units to cover each local authority area. They would be answerable to a strengthened and more independent social services inspectorate.

Under the now delayed plan for the community care reforms "arm's length" inspection bodies will be set up by local councils to monitor residential homes in the public and the private sector from next April in advance of the main reforms. However, the report argues that a national body should perform both an inspecting and an advisory role, similar to the Inspectors of Schools. It also suggests setting up an accreditation system for the planned mixed-economy provision of care under the reforms.

Community Care: Quality (Stationery Office, £6.45)

## QC sees deceit in takeover secrecy

By PAUL WILKINSON

JURORS in the Guinness trial were yesterday urged to ask themselves why alleged share support operations during the brewers' takeover of Distillers in 1986 were kept secret. Was it done to mislead or to deceive, John Chadwick, QC, for the prosecution, asked at the start of his closing speech at Southwark Crown Court, south London.

"You may have heard the expression 'secrecy is the badge of fraud'. When you find that a transaction is being kept under wraps it is sensible to ask why. There may be good commercial reasons, but it may also be that the transaction has to be hidden if it is to be effective and then you should ask 'does the transaction depend for its effect upon deception, is that why it has to be hidden?'"

Mr Chadwick was speaking on the ninety-third day of the hearing as the case entered its closing stages. The jury has been present for 77 of those days and heard evidence from 73 witnesses. Mr Justice Henry told them he expected to send them out to consider

their verdict during the week beginning August 13. Ernest Saunders, former chairman of Guinness, and three City figures have denied 22 counts alleging theft, fraud and breaches of the Companies Act during the Distillers takeover. It has been claimed that success fees running into millions of pounds were paid illegally by Guinness to ensure its bid was successful. With Mr Saunders in the dock is the Gerald Ronson, chairman of Britain's second largest privately owned group Heron, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier.

Mr Chadwick told the jury that he agreed that no evidence had been brought to show that those involved had been sworn to secrecy, "experienced" and sophisticated businessmen are not likely to say to each other 'keep this secret, we must not be found out'. They do not need to."

Mr Chadwick said that Mr Ronson's defence was that he did not appreciate it was unlawful. Mr Parnes maintained that it was not in fact

unlawful and Sir Jack contended that he was not involved at all. Mr Saunders said that he knew nothing about a support operation. "These will be matters for you to judge," Mr Chadwick said.

Mr Chadwick then turned to the charges involving Mr Ronson's Heron Corporation. Mr Ronson has admitted receiving a £5 million success fee and £800,000 to cover losses incurred when the Guinness shares were sold for less than they cost.

The money was paid to Heron through two of its subsidiaries, Heron Management Services and an American Company, Pima of Arizona. Two issues were at stake: was it implicit that the payments would not be disclosed to the public and was Mr Ronson acting dishonestly in making agreements on them? "You should have no hesitation in deciding that it was implicit in the agreements which Mr Ronson has said he made that the arrangements would not be disclosed to the public and that Mr Ronson was well aware of that."

Mr Chadwick said that Mr Parnes had acted as a link between Mr Saunders and Mr Ronson. "Mr Parnes, unlike the others, was an experienced stockbroker. He must have known that the purchases of Guinness shares against an indemnity and success fee ought to have been disclosed and that no disclosure had been made."

Turning to the case of Mr Saunders, Mr Chadwick told the jury: "In approaching the question of Mr Saunders' honesty you will, of course, have in mind that he has denied any involvement in the arrangements. If you accept his denial the question of dishonest concealment by him does not arise."

"But if you are satisfied that Mr Saunders' denial cannot be accepted and are satisfied that he did make the arrangements alleged, then you must ask yourselves why he has denied them. The prosecution say, of course, that the denial is consistent only with dishonesty."

The hearing continues today.

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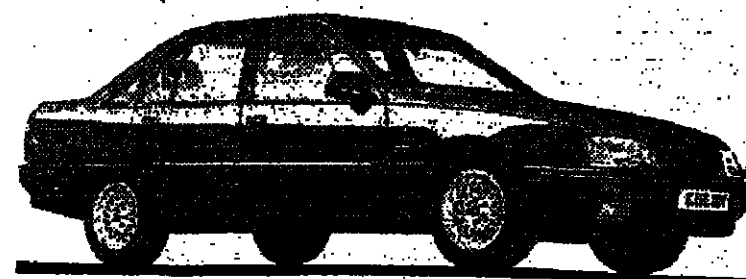
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# Strategy for a fighting force fit for the 1990s takes shape

The defence secretary did the decent thing in his ministerial statement to the House of Commons yesterday. A couple of weeks ago he promised that, before MPs left for their holidays, he would explain how his ministry intends to economise during what is left of 1990-1 to ensure that it does not exceed its £21 billion cash budget for the financial year. He said a bit about that.

Tom King has also been under pressure of late to disclose what sort of blueprint for Britain's defence effort in the 1990s might eventually emerge from the "options for change" exercise which his senior people are undertaking. Uncertainty about that has begun to affect morale in the forces, especially among the 60,000 troops in West Germany. Defence contractors too have been crying out for guidance on what the future holds. The minister had quite a lot to say about that. He was

cryptic about short-term economy measures, but we can guess what he intends. When you have to axe several hundred million pounds from a departmental programme in a hurry, there is little margin for manoeuvre.

To check personnel spending, the services have certainly been told to go slow on recruiting and not to worry if they fall short of manning targets. To keep outlays on operations and maintenance within bounds, my guess is that soon there is to be a cut-back in activity levels (ship-days at sea, the army's field training, aircraft flying hours); and equipment that breaks down will increasingly be left unrepaired.

As for procurement expenditure — for new equipment — the word has probably gone out already that orders must be slashed and acquisition time-tables stretched wherever possible. (Cancellation of a follow-on order for Tornados was announced just the

other week). Perhaps it was embarrassment that made the defence secretary tight-lipped about these hasty cuts. After all it is astounding that the defence ministry should be struggling to extricate itself from a financial pickle. Whatever happened to the MoD's smart new structures and procedures for managing its programme?

The official line is, of course, that the Treasury is the culprit. The mandarins there grossly underestimated the inflation rate when setting defence's cash allocation for 1990-1; and the fact that the prospect of running out of money before the end of the financial year was spotted so early actually shows the effectiveness of the new cash management routines. That may be true. However, it is also the case that, for at least five years now, reputable defence analysts have been pointing to a growing discrepancy between the cash allocated to the MoD's programme and

the resources required to sustain the existing force structure and force levels while keeping the services' equipment up to date and up to scratch.

So, there is now to be a root-and-branch review of the defence effort, arising from the option for change undertaken. The impulses behind this exercise are the changed climate of East-West relations, the imminence of a first accord on reducing conventional forces in Europe (CFE), plus the reformulation of Nato's doctrine and impending reorganisation of Nato's dispositions on the Continent.

Yesterday's ministerial statement conveyed the bare bones of what Mrs Thatcher's government has in mind for a phased adjustment over the next five to seven years. It envisages bringing a division's worth of troops home from West Germany and reducing the number of RAF bases there from four to two. That will please the increasingly

environment conscious Germans. A UK-based division will be struck from the army's order of battle and the air force will lose a total of five interception/strike Tornado squadrons.

They are not going to savage the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines, however. The government thinks the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines should lose less than 5 per cent of their personnel and very few warships. The modest contraction fore-shadowed for the navy may, of course, be a reflection of what Liddell Hart called the "dining out power" which the senior service can muster, or even the special place in the prime minister's affections which her admirals won during the Falklands campaign.

However it also makes sense. For one thing naval power fits in well with the concept of a shift towards more flexible, mobile and versatile forces for the late 1990s, when the likelihood is that the

main challenges to Western security will arise outside rather than within the Nato area. But, more important, a reallocation of roles and responsibilities within the Atlantic alliance is about to occur as a new model force structure — centred on a 370,000-strong united Germanies' Bundeswehr and a much-reduced American presence of 195,000 (and maybe fewer) in the central region — is put in place.

It is the desirability of thus meshing whatever restructuring the United Kingdom does with what is being done in the alliance as a whole which makes it particularly gratifying that Mr King was at pains yesterday to emphasise that the final shape of his defence review would not be settled until after the fullest consultation with allies.

DAVID GREENWOOD  
Director of the Centre for Defence Studies, University of Aberdeen

## How German unity leaves services' fate in the balance

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A UNITED Germany might request the total withdrawal of British forces from its territory, the Commons defence committee said yesterday in a report on the implications of the unification of Germany and the disintegration of the threat from the Warsaw Pact.

The MPs reported: "The purely military justification for stationed forces in Germany has to be questioned as forward defence is reviewed and as the Bundeswehr looks increasingly able to provide for defence of German territory. If the new Germany were positively to request the withdrawal of BFG (British Forces Germany), that would put the matter beyond doubt. It is a possibility which has to be borne in mind."

It was just as plausible to imagine, however, that as its military role receded and its overall numbers were reduced, the political role of the BFG would increase and that Germany and the rest of Europe would welcome integrated stationed forces in Germany. The committee gave a warning that the deployment of British units in Germany must be a matter for agreement within Nato, responding to the outcome of discussions on a replacement of the present corps structure.

It would be premature to quantify at this stage the exact number of British soldiers to be withdrawn. "Until new deployments and command structures are clearer, BFG's basic structure — if not its size — can remain as it is," the report said. There was no

inexorable logic in seeking to match any reductions exactly to those made by the Soviet Union in East Germany or other Nato countries in West Germany. It was clear, however, that the commitments under the Paris protocols to the Brussels Treaty were no longer appropriate.

The committee's report, a summary of which was released on Tuesday, focused in some detail on the likely fate of the British Army of the Rhine and the RAF squadrons in Germany. The immediate question to be faced, the MPs said, was the extent to which units withdrawn were to be redeployed or disbanded.

Moving troops presented a management challenge in securing housing and alternative training areas. The defence ministry had told the MPs that there were no available UK permanent barracks "capable of housing an army major unit and its families". New barracks for an infantry battalion could cost up to £55 million, the committee said, excluding the cost of land. It would be prudent to assume, however, that most of the forces withdrawn from Germany would not be retained. Staff from disbanded units who wished to remain in the services could be used to fill vacant posts elsewhere. "It would be absurd to lose highly-trained personnel when the services cannot recruit and retain enough of them," the report said.

Nevertheless, some service and civilian personnel would probably be made redundant.

Therefore, the terms should be "agreed and promulgated as soon as possible".

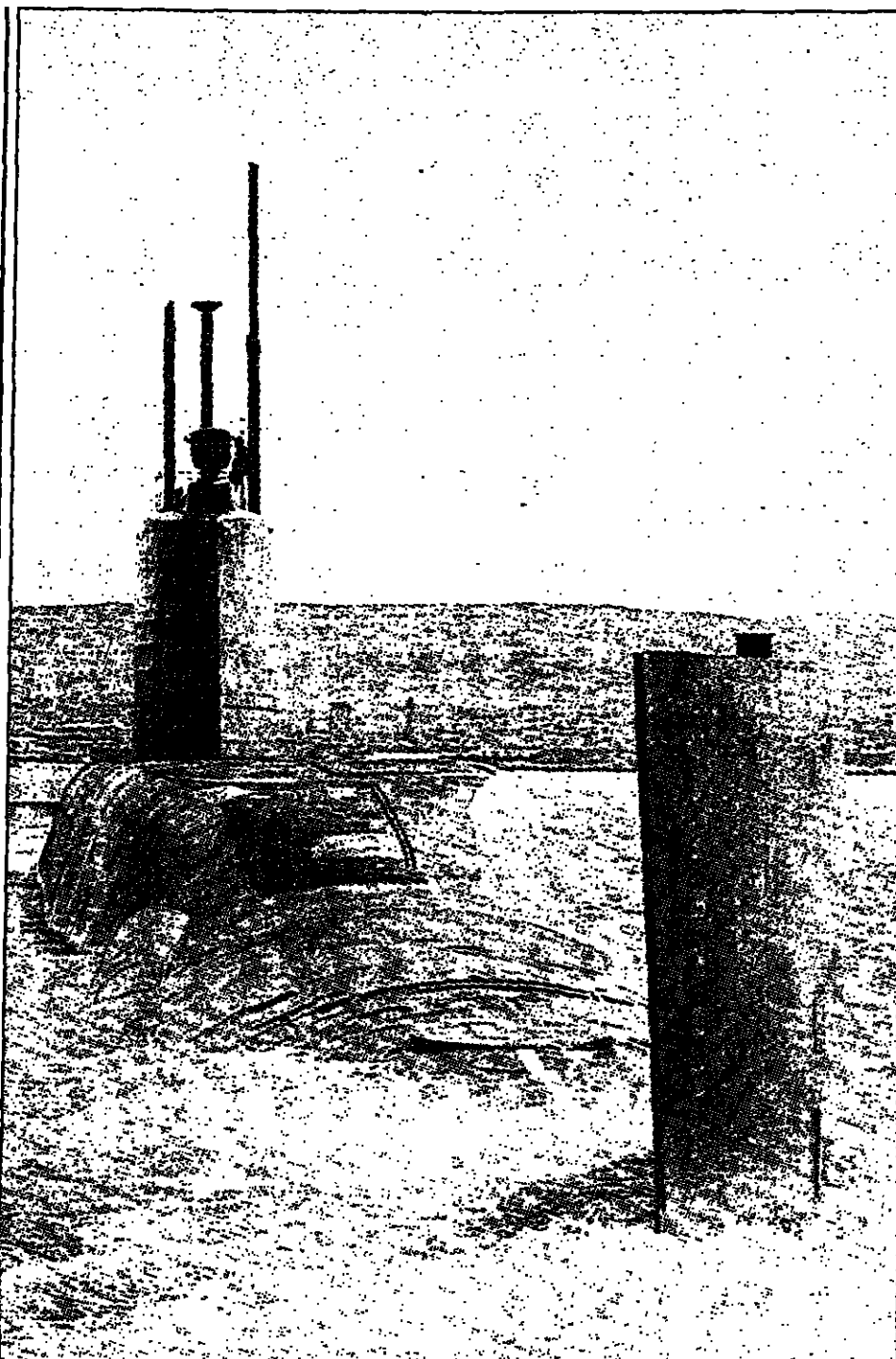
The report added that the government's "options for change" defence review must indicate the financial implications of British troops withdrawing from Germany. An infrastructure equivalent to a small city had been developed in northwest Germany. There were 82 schools, four hospitals and 70 medical centres. Ten per cent of married BFG personnel had German wives. A smaller British presence would not need fixed infrastructure on the present scale.

The committee suggested that, in the longer term, some forces could be stationed elsewhere on the continent, albeit in very small numbers, even though Tom King, the defence secretary, had said he considered it unlikely.

The committee accepted that there were political advantages to having multinational forces in Germany. The government had already endorsed the concept as a way of deploying stationed forces there in the future. But the MPs raised some doubts. "Multinational forces consisting of troops from several different countries, with different equipment, training and discipline, and no common language, could be a recipe for disaster."

Defence Implications of Recent Events (Commons Defence Committee, Stationery Office, £18)

Leading article, page 11



HMS Repulse, one of four Polaris ballistic missile submarines, Britain's independent nuclear deterrent, returning to port after completing the 200th Polaris patrol since the boats came into service more than 21 years ago. The Polaris boats, which are to be replaced by Trident, maintain the deterrent at sea on patrol 365 days a year.

## Radical ideas set aside as ministry puts safety first

By OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government's "options for change" defence review has come up with a series of sensible, practical proposals but few could be called radical. While there are significant planned reductions in army and air force personnel stationed in Germany, the government remains committed to a sizeable continental presence.

There are cuts across the board for all three services, yet none of the key roles has been dropped. There is also to be a more structured out-of-area capability with a strategic reserve force in Britain, having its own headquarters and able to call on the services of units such as the air mobile force, 3 Commando Brigade and the airborne forces.

The scenarios painted by the review team at the defence ministry had included much more radical proposals, some of them based on the paper produced by Alan Clark, the defence procurement minister. However, the more radical approach began to lose favour as the prime minister and Tom King, the defence secretary, became increasingly concerned about growing instability in Eastern Europe and the need, as they saw it, to maintain an all-round defence capability.

The navy perhaps was the most surprised yesterday as they were told that the submarine force was to be cut from 27 nuclear and diesel boats to around 16. This was in spite of statements from Mr King in the past that the Soviet navy's submarine capability was being enhanced even though the number of boats was being reduced, with

one submarine coming off the production line every six weeks.

What do the cuts mean for the three services? In Germany, army personnel will be cut from the present establishment of 56,000 to between 25,000 and 27,000. That probably means one division of about 15,000 men and another 10,000 deployed with other allied forces. The second division to be maintained for the defence of the European mainland will be based in the UK.

The overall cuts in army jobs will be 40,000.

It is not clear what the relationship will be between regular and reserve forces but Mr King has made it clear that he wants reserves to take on a more prominent role. One key difficulty here is that the defence ministry has failed to reach a new recruiting target for the Territorial Army.

There is no firm commitment in yesterday's statement to future heavy equipment programmes, but army sources were confident last night that if a continental presence were to be maintained and if the army were to be capable of fighting in high intensity operations, tanks, heavy artillery and other central front orientated weapons systems would still be needed.

For the RAF, the closure of two bases in Germany and the loss of four Phantom squadrons (two in Germany and two in the UK) and three Tornado squadrons, which will be put in storage, does not alter the fact that the government has decided that the breadth of the RAF's commitments should be maintained. No roles have been seriously affected.

There will have to be a serious debate as to which of the bases in Germany should be closed. The most vulnerable is the one at Gutersloh near Hanover, which is a station for Harriers and helicopters, because it is located well forward. The other vulnerable base is at Wildenrath, which houses the Phantom squadrons that are to be withdrawn.

The two other bases are at Bruggen and Laubach, which, like Wildenrath, are on the Dutch/German border.

The navy has to lose only 3,000 personnel. Eleven per cent of manpower had been cut in the past nine years, but the loss of so many submarines even though most of them will be the older ones will be seen as a traumatic decision by the navy. However the Fleet Air Arm has survived the cuts with the decision to keep all three carriers equipped with the new Merlin helicopter, the improved Harriers and the Lynx Mark 8 helicopter.

The government also continues to be committed to having an amphibious capability for the Royal Marines, which will mean that the old assault ships HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid will be replaced.

## King's statement to the Commons on defence structure for the 90s

Excerpts from the statement to the House of Commons by Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence.

IN THE "options for change" studies, we have sought to devise a structure for our regular forces appropriate to the new security situation and meeting our essential peacetime operational needs. The framework would be reinforced in a period of tension by drawing on volunteer reserves and reservists. We have also allowed for the possible need to build back our forces over a longer period should international circumstances ever require us to do so.

There clearly are opportunities but also risks in Europe; and elsewhere some worrying trends — not least, the proliferation of sophisticated weapons systems. We shall therefore continue to need a robust defence capability as our insurance against the unexpected.

Our proposals will bring a reduction in the share of GDP taken by defence. We need force levels which we can afford and which can realistically be manned. The aim is smaller forces, better equipped, properly trained and housed, and well motivated. They will need to be flexible and mobile.

We shall retain our strategic deterrent with a four-boat Trident force. In accordance with Nato

policy for an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional forces in Europe, we shall also need a sub-strategic force of dual-capable Tornados with a stand-off missile.

We must also continue to ensure the effective defence of the United Kingdom itself. A comprehensive air defence capability will be essential, although with a smaller fighter force than had been planned. The UK fighter force would be held at seven squadrons of air-defence Tornados, supplemented by armed Hawks, and the remaining two Phantom squadrons would be withdrawn. We plan to retain at about present levels our home defence forces and our capability to deal with hostile

mine-laying in home waters. We shall sustain our contribution in Northern Ireland. For as long as they are needed, we will provide forces in the Falklands, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Belize and — until 1997 — Hong Kong.

We will continue to deploy forces in Germany alongside our German and other allies. We envisage that our stationed forces could be roughly half their present strength. When reinforced from the UK, our army contribution could comprise of two divisions, rather than four as at present.

We expect to reduce the RAF presence in Germany from four bases to two. We envisage retaining Harrier and helicopter forces there.

As Germany takes on the air-policing responsibility for its territory, we would envisage phasing out our air defence contribution. We envisage maintaining six squadrons of Tornado aircraft in Germany and the UK with nuclear and conventional roles in Europe. The two variants of Tornado will provide the backbone of the future Royal Air Force. Aircraft not deployed in peacetime will be retained for use should we need to build back up our capability.

In view of Chancellor Kohl's request that troops of the three Western powers should stay in Berlin as long as Soviet forces are in the present GDR, we envisage continuing to contribute, including

an RAF contingent. We intend to retain an amphibious capability in the longer term, whose roles include reinforcement of Nato's northern region. We shall also maintain an air contribution to the defence of the northern region; but we are looking again at the future requirement for the United Kingdom mobile force.

We need to take account of the decline in the size of the Soviet navy but also of its modernisation. We propose to maintain three carriers, update their Sea Harrier aircraft, and proceed with the EH101 helicopter programme. I would envisage a future destroyer/frigate force of around 40 ships. The reduction would be achieved by paying off older, less-capable ships. In addition to Trident, we envisage a future submarine force of about 16 boats of which three-quarters would be nuclear-powered. We see the Buccaneer force in the anti-ship role being replaced by dual-capable Tornados redeployed from Germany and re-equipped with Sea Eagle missiles. There would be a small reduction in Nimrod numbers. A capability for other contingencies would be provided by establishing a strategic reserve division bringing together amphibious, parachute, air mobile and armoured formations.

Work remains to be done on detailed force structures and on changes in the support area, where we will be looking for substantial savings, before we can clarify the implications for individual units. We envisage in broad terms by the mid-1990s a regular army of around 120,000, Royal Navy/Royal Marines of around 60,000 and a Royal Air Force of around 75,000. The overall reduction in regular service manpower would be around 18 per cent; we expect our civilian numbers to be similarly reduced. The volunteer reserves will continue to play a key role.

There will now be further work on the detailed implications of these broad proposals. Their cost will, of course, be within the expenditure plans published in the last public expenditure white paper. Revised figures for defence expenditure will be announced in the Chancellor's autumn statement. In respect of the current year the House is aware that I am taking steps to constrain spending within the agreed provision. Announcements have been made on aircraft. We shall be easing back on army recruiting and retiring early several ships and submarines, and making some other short-term changes to the programme.

## The main changes for British forces

ARMY: British Army of the Rhine reduced from four to two divisions. 35,000 manpower halved. No change in 100,000 regular-reserve personnel designated for the defence of Britain.

RAF: Manpower cut from 89,000 to 75,000. In Britain, Tornado F3 squadrons increased from six to seven. Two Phantom squadrons disbanded. In Germany, bases cut from four to two and squadrons from fifteen to nine. Four Tornado fighter-bomber squadrons and two Phantom squadrons disbanded. Three British-based Tornado squadrons designated for the defence of Europe cut to two.

ROYAL NAVY-ROYAL MARINES: Manpower

reduced by 3,000 to 60,000. Nuclear and diesel-powered submarines cut to 16 and frigate-destroyer fleet to shrink from 48 to 40. The two Buccaneer maritime strike aircraft to be replaced with Tornados redeployed from Germany. Three aircraft carriers to be retained and their Sea Harriers updated. Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft reduced by 15 per cent. The two amphibious assault ships retained.

NUCLEAR DETERRENT: The four-submarine Trident force will go ahead.

OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS: Britain will continue to provide forces in the Falklands, Cyprus, Gibraltar and Belize, and in Hong Kong until 1997.

## Military research cash reduced by £200 million

By PEARCE WRIGHT, SCIENCE EDITOR

FUNDING for research and development by the defence ministry fell by £200 million last year, according to a government report published yesterday. The reduced spending is a result of decisions taken long before changes in Eastern Europe prompted the present military review.

The eighth Annual Review of Research and Development, published by the Cabinet Office, shows that the defence ministry still spends more than any other department on research, accounting for more than £2 billion last year. The decline in military work was partially offset by an extra £100 million spent on university and academic science work. This received a total of £1.5 billion, allocated by the

research councils and the Universities Funding Council. The government spends more than £4.5 billion a year, divided between defence research, contracts issued by the other civil departments, and universities and other academic science centres. A further £4.8 billion a year comes from industry coffers.

The annual review is a five-year snap-shot which looks at spending during the past two years and planned expenditure for the next three years.

The latest report shows that Britain has slipped to fifth place in the patenting league table behind France, Germany, the United States and Japan. Patenting is generally recognised as the test of success in applying the results of research. The study shows

that drugs and bio-engineering are the only sectors of technology in which patenting has not declined in relation to the progress made by Britain's competitors.

The government has, however, made some progress in its aim to encourage more research in industry, which has increased its own spending by 10 per cent and received a matching sum in collaborative projects supported by the government.

● The Universities Funding Council will spend £10 million to help create a world-class centre in oceanography at Southampton, it was announced yesterday. The Centre for Deep Sea Oceanography will open in 1994 at an estimated cost of £43 million.

## Explorer triumphs in libel adventure

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE explorer Sir Ranulph Twissleton-Wykeham-Fiennes emerged from the High Court's steamy libel jungle yesterday with £100,000 in damages.

The man described by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's greatest living explorer had complained that a nasty, mean-minded and spiteful article in a Canadian magazine, *Maclean's*, dismissed his exploits as having achieved nothing of historical or scientific value.

The jury took no more than 40 minutes to decide that the explorer had been libelled by an article in *Maclean's* in April 1988 that stated that "Prince Charles always supports him, claiming great results for British exports, but no-one has ever been able to demonstrate that any scientific or historical

benefits have resulted". The damages, and legal costs estimated to be £75,000, were awarded against the magazine's editor, Kevin Doyle, the journalist Allan Fotheringham, who wrote the article, and the UK publishers Maclean Hunter, who denied that the words bore any defamatory meaning.

His wife Virginia, a companion on many of his expeditions, said afterwards: "The damages are astonishingly high. We never expected anything like that."

Summing up, the senior libel judge, Mr Justice Michael Davies, said that the article read as a whole may have portrayed Sir Ranulph "as an upper class twit, not a real explorer, but a bumbling playboy".

## HIV death claim

The parents of a teenage haemophiliac who died from HIV-related illness due to contaminated blood products have asked William Reid, the ombudsman, to intervene in their quest for compensation from the government (Thomson Prentice writes).

The Haemophilia Society and Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester Wythenshawe, are supporting the appeal by Jed and Joan Hillary, of Stockport, Cheshire, whose son Gerald died last November, aged 16.

### Drug charge

Two Britons accused of trying to smuggle 870g of cocaine out of Peru have gone on trial. Brian Tristram and John Boxhall, both of London, who were arrested in December 1988 at Lima's international airport, face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

### Plans cost more

The cost of applying for planning permission is to be increased by 20 per cent from November, Michael Spicer, the planning minister, said yesterday. The cost of an application to build a new house will rise to £92 while that for an extension will be £46.

### Toxic cloud

Hundreds of people were temporarily evacuated from their homes yesterday after 1,000 gallons of methyl chloride leaked from a burning chemical factory in Sturbridge, Birmingham, producing a toxic cloud. Twelve people were treated for irritation before the cloud dispersed.

### Free-range call

A petition, signed by 6,000 people who support the use of free-range eggs, was delivered to the agriculture ministry yesterday urging the government to make salmonella testing requirements less burdensome for small poultry farmers.

## Rushdie video

Thousands of pirate copies of the film *International Guerrillas*, showing the fictional death of the author Salman Rushdie, are reported to have flooded Birmingham's video market. Illegal copies of the banned film are for hire at £5.

## Mascot dies

The Royal Regiment of Wales was in mourning yesterday after the death of its mascot, Dewi the goat. Dewi made hundreds of appearances for the regiment's third battalion.

## Oldest man dies

Sam Crabbe, Britain's oldest man, has died at the age of 109, six weeks after taking over the title. Mr Crabbe, of Cadgwith, Cornwall, died after being admitted to hospital with a chest infection.

## Driver crushed

A driver was killed when a road roller fell off the back of a lorry and crushed his car at Langloft, Lincolnshire.



## Single market gets 50p coin

The Queen has approved the issue of a commemorative 50p coin to mark Britain's presidency of the EC council of ministers and the start of the single European market, both in 1992.

John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announcing the new coin, said that, apart from the circulated design, collectors' versions will also be issued in base metal, silver and gold.

## £30m TriStar contract

A contract worth more than £30 million for maintenance of the RAF TriStar fleet has been let, after intense competition, to Marshall of Cambridge (Engineering).

Alan Clark, defence procurement minister, said in a written reply that the contract covered scheduled and unscheduled maintenance of the aircraft, including repair and overhaul of components, over the next four years.

## Recycled newspapers

David Heathcoat-Amory, junior environment minister, said in a written reply that he intended to have meetings with individual newspaper publishers, newsprint manufacturers and the Newspaper Publishers Association soon to discuss further what measures can be taken to increase the proportion of recycled paper used in newsprint.

## Collection of poll tax

Community charge collection figures "among the more competent local authorities" were pretty good, Christopher Patten, environment secretary, said during question time. Overall figures showed that the collection level was about the same as for domestic rates last year. Poole borough council had achieved 97 per cent.

## Dental checks bring in £50m

Charges for dental checks raised £50 million for the Exchequer in 1989-90 and are expected to raise £55 million this financial year. Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said in a Commons written reply.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Summer adjournment debates.

Lords (11): Employment bill, third reading; Broadcasting bill, seventh and final day.

# Quick benefit from ERM is ruled out by Chancellor

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said yesterday that Britain should not expect immediate short-term benefits from joining the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) of the European monetary union.

Entry will not be a panacea, he added under questioning by the Commons Treasury and civil service committee.

Mr Major also disclosed that since he took over as Chancellor from Nigel Lawson last October he has become more convinced over Britain's entry.

"I do believe it is absolutely right for sterling to join. That is not a view I held with such force a year ago," he said.

Defending his "hard ecu" proposals, he told MPs they were not a political guise or a delaying tactic to counter moves within the European Community towards a single currency.

"They are a genuine contribution to an important debate that is taking place in Europe."

He also described them as the most "disinflationary" proposals put forward. However, he indicated that a single currency might be the ultimate result, stating that his proposals were aimed at filling the "black hole" between stage one of the Delors strategy, which includes entry into the ERM, and stage three.

He predicted that the hard ecu would be the strongest of the 13 EC currencies. His proposed European monetary fund would be responsible only for the monetary policies of the hard ecu and not involved in controlling sterling.

There is no wish within the community to move towards making the mark a common currency and abandoning the ecu, he said. Although he admired West Germany's inflation record, there was no intrinsic reason or guarantee that the

West German economy should be the best performing economy in the EC nor the mark the strongest currency.

Nicholas Budgen, Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South West, said it was the duty of politicians to make a clear choice and be ready to "die" for their decisions. It was irresponsible to put forward a proposal that, Mr Major had conceded, could lead to a single currency.

Both Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, argued yesterday against member states moving at different speeds towards unity.

Mr Major said it would be an extremely retrograde step for an inner core to develop within the EC.

Mr Hurd, giving evidence to the Lords EC enquiry on European political and monetary union, said: "On the whole, it would be undesirable."

The point of having a community was that it should function as a community in such matters and it was important too reach a common policy.

"If it becomes accepted that in sphere after sphere there were two or three or more speeds, the sense of the need to work together would begin to evaporate."

He added: "Part of the impetus of the community is the feeling that we should make a strenuous effort to reach agreement. If we lose that feeling, then the community would be the weaker."

Mr Hurd implicitly criticised many MPs who took little interest in the development of the EC.

"I hope there will be more members of the Commons and the Lords who will take a constructive part in it. So long as ministers feel that there is only a handful of members who bother, then no amount of procedures will remove that."



John Major: More convinced than ever on the necessity for Britain to enter

## Drop fast reactors, energy MPs say

By PEARCE WRIGHT, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S fast nuclear reactor development programme, on which £4 billion has been spent over the past 30 years, should be abandoned by 1993 at the earliest, or 1997 at the latest, according to the Commons energy select committee.

The proposal could seal the fate of the research centre at Dounreay in Caithness, which is already under review by the energy department, because the committee report also rejects plans for UK collaboration in a European fast reactor project.

In a vigorous response, Brian Eves, chief executive of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, dismissed the committee's conclusions.

Dr Eves said: "The committee has taken a narrow and short-term view. The argument for investing in the development of fast reactors has always been strategic, making sense we have a secure long-term clean electricity supply."

"Global warming is a real threat, and nuclear power is a major part of the answer. But the world's present generation of reactors is using up uranium far too rapidly. The fast reactor, which is 60 times more efficient, will need to be introduced early next century."

He added: "On many important points the report is wrong. We are not talking about paper reactors, but real experi-

ence, which is about to reach commercial maturity, and in which there is worldwide interest. The committee puts too much faith in unproven renewable technology. It is not a case of either developing renewables or nuclear power. Both will be needed."

His views conflict sharply with the evidence assembled by the committee, chaired by Michael Clark, Conservative MP for Rochford. Dr Clark said his committee's recommendation was based on an economic analysis showing that energy from fast reactors was always likely to be much dearer than that from other sources.

He said evidence from the department showed that available uranium supplies for existing types of reactors would be adequate for over 100 years.

He could not foresee the need for a fast reactor before the year 2120, at the earliest. His committee believed the fast breeder programme had kept going on the sensible premise that an insurance policy was necessary when shortages of nuclear energy seemed likely. Conditions had changed and the cost was now too high.

The committee recommends the use of Dounreay and its scientific manpower for the development of wave power, wind power and other alternative technologies.

## DNA tests accepted

Genetic testing will be made legal in Scotland to help to track down fathers in disputes over paternity cases (Sheila Gunn writes).

In the final hours of debate in committee on the Scottish law reform bill, the government unexpectedly accepted a Labour amendment introducing DNA testing in civil cases. The concession points to similar moves eventually in England and Wales to help the proposed child support agency to pursue absent fathers for maintenance.

Donald Dewar, shadow Scottish secretary, said yesterday: "DNA testing is a reliable way of establishing paternity and it is in that context that the new clause is likely to be most relevant. The court will be able to direct a party to a paternity action to take a DNA test."

"I shall announce the total reduction that will be made in business rates next year at a later date, but the fact that the local authorities' contribution has been taken into account in this settlement means that the reduction in non-domestic rate

income will not require a reduction in aggregate expenditure below the figure I have just announced.

"Overall, the settlement I have announced is a very fair one. Even if 'Costs' has forecast authorities were to budget to increase their expenditure next year by as much as 9 per cent, that is, close to the current rate of RPI inflation, there should be no need for community charges to increase, on average, more than that amount. And, if particularly with the expected fall in the rate of inflation, authorities increase spending by rather less than 9 per cent, there should be scope for next year's charge levels to be lower in real terms.

"If local authorities in Scotland were to reduce their spending to levels closer to those elsewhere in Britain," he added, "there would be scope for large reductions in the community charge."

"The changes to the transitional relief scheme, which will take effect in Scotland from April 1, 1990, will increase significantly the value of relief received by individuals and the numbers entitled to receive relief."

Donald Dewar, shadow Scottish secretary, said there would be the most bitter disappointment at the statement. The minor tinkering with transitional relief, rather than radical changes to the poll tax, would be seen as inadequate to the point of insult.

Mr Rifkind said that the aggregate external finances for 1991-2 would be set at £4,338 million. That was £410 million higher than the corresponding figure for this year.

A further £15 million would be provided for safety netting next year. This would be the second year in which the safety net had been funded entirely by the Exchequer. Proposals for the distribution of this amount to individual authorities would be announced in the autumn.

"In reaching this settlement," he said, "I have assumed that local authorities will contribute £10 million in the second year of the government's policy of moving to a common rate of poundage with England and thereby reduce the excess rate burden on Scottish business."

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## Wooing grey power

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

The next election looks likely to be one that Margaret Thatcher will lead her party into as an old-age pensioner: it is also an election that could be decided by the pensioners' vote.

In 1983, the Tory lead over Labour among the 55-plus age group was 20 per cent. At the 1987 election, after pensioners had been asked by what many saw as a derisory 40p top-up pension increase that spring, the Tory advantage in that age group dropped to 15 per cent, and since then it has been wiped out altogether in opinion polls.

Labour has recognised the extent of what is becoming known as grey power. The party's demagogue, *Looking to the Future*, offered few figures. The exception was a passage on pensioners which promised as the first priority to restore the link between pensions and earnings broken by the Conservatives (who switched to uprating pensions only in relation to prices). The document went on to say of a promised increase in the basic pension: "It will not be less than £5 per week for a single person and £8 for a couple". That and an increase in child benefit are the only spending pledges acknowledged by the Labour Treasury team.

Pensioners are important to the parties because the over-55s constitute a large (35 per cent) and growing sector of the electorate. More than that, they are more likely than other age groups to turn out and vote. In June 1987, the Mori agenda poll among people leaving the polling booths found that 24 per cent of those aged 18-24 had voted. For the 35-44 age group the figure was 35 per cent. Among the 55-64s half had voted and of those aged 65 and over 60 per cent had voted.

Older voters make up their minds earlier, too, and are more likely to have settled their allegiance before an election begins. In the first Mori panel survey of the 1987 contest, 63 per cent of 18-24-year-olds had decided how they were going to vote, 72 per cent of those aged 25-34 had done so and of those aged 60 or over 80 per cent had determined which party they would support.

Labour's 9 per cent lead over the Conservatives among the 55-plus in the latest Times aggregate poll is therefore

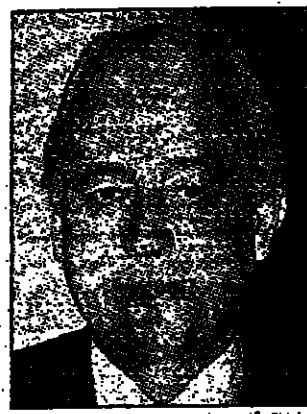
rather more important to it than the 33 per cent lead among the 18-24 age group or the 25 per cent margin among 25-34s, who represent between them a smaller section of the electorate. In the last two elections the Conservatives did 4 per cent better among the 55-plus than they did in the electorate in general. In May 1979, they did 2 per cent better among those older voters, and even in October 1974, the last time Labour won a general election, the Tories led Labour by 42 per cent to 40 per cent among 55-plus.

Whether it has all been part of a deliberate strategy or not, pensioners have not been neglected by the 1987 Conservative government.

Admittedly it took a long time after the promise to do so, given in 1979, but last year saw the abolition of the earnings rule whereby people earning more than £75 a week had been having their pensions docked pro rata. Then there was a targeted increase in income support for 2.6 million poorer pensioners. Pensioners have been given tax incentives for private health insurance, too, against strenuous Labour opposition. Pensioners living alone are probably the most clearly identifiable group to benefit from the poll tax. And, as many older people have paid off their mortgages and are net savers rather than borrowers with the building societies, they have less cause than some to feel aggrieved about high interest rates.

Those factors, taken together, could account for the Tories' comparatively better showing among older voters. But strategists in both parties are concerned to discover which issues are likely to have an effect on older voters.

Naturally enough, the evidence is that pensioners are their prime target. The National Health Service does not figure particularly prominently among the concerns of older voters, although they make much more use of it than younger people do. The one subject that does concern older voters more than others is crime. That is a finding that is likely to strengthen the views of David Waddington, the home secretary, as he and Norman Lamont, the Treasury chief secretary, get down to their bout of arm-wrestling in the public spending round.



David Waddington

## Rifkind calls for poll tax restraint

THE community charge in Scotland next year should go up by less than the rate of inflation, Mr Rifkind said.

In a statement on government support for local authority spending, Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, said that if councils north of the border increased their spending next year by 9 per cent, close to the present rate of RPI inflation, there should be no need for community charge increases to average more than that amount. There was scope for cutting spending by increased efficiency, on average, more than that amount. And, if particularly with the expected fall in the rate of inflation, authorities increase spending by rather less than 9 per cent, there should be scope for next year's charge levels to be lower in real terms.

"If local authorities in Scotland were to reduce their spending to levels closer to those elsewhere in Britain," he added, "there would be scope for large reductions in the community charge."

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# Gorbachev acts to quell armed bands in restive republics

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has declared war on the armed bands that have effectively taken over some parts of the Soviet Union, particularly in the Transcaucasus.

In a presidential decree issued yesterday, the Soviet leader instructed all unauthorised armed units on Soviet territory to disband within 15 days and surrender their weapons and supplies.

The decree serves warning that the interior ministry will use its own troops, or in exceptional cases regular army detachments, against groups deemed to pose a threat to the safety of the population or the security of the state.

The instruction appears to be directed primarily against armed bands that have been operating in the southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Their activity was sparked off initially by the dispute over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is officially administered by Azerbaijan but populated mainly by

Armenians. In recent months, however, the armed groups have turned their attention to Soviet troops sent to keep the peace.

Unofficial reports from Armenia — which has been closed to foreign journalists based in Moscow for several months — indicate that something akin to a guerrilla war is in progress between well-armed Armenian partisans and regular Soviet troops.

Last week it was reported from Yerevan, the Armenian capital, that district offices of the interior ministry and police stations had been attacked by bands in search of weapons. The report described a late-night attack on a police arsenal in the town of Kirovakan, one of the places damaged in the 1988 earthquake. Troops who had tried to defend the building had been attacked with automatic weapons and a junior officer had been killed.

The army newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, also reported that a "large group of

extremists" had carried out an armed attack on a Soviet army detachment only 12 miles from Yerevan. They had cut all telephone links and seized 37 automatic weapons and 870 rounds of ammunition, as well as hand-grenades.

The article concluded by asking: "Who will these weapons be used against, and when will the law be enforced?"

In a commentary the army newspaper yesterday said that more than six different armed groupings were operating in Armenia, some of them openly calling themselves "armies".

It claimed that there had been more than 200 attacks on Soviet military personnel in the republic since the beginning of the year, resulting in the loss of more than 2,000 guns, but only a small number of the attackers had been caught and brought to trial.

A senior official of the Armenian judiciary was quoted as saying that the reason why so few had been brought to justice was that "there are no witnesses".

He added: "People are afraid to testify. The law and order enforcement agencies have lost control."

Armenian groups claim that their activity is inspired by two considerations: a desire to "see justice done" in Nagorno-Karabakh, which was returned to the control of Azerbaijan last summer after a period of ineffectual direct rule from Moscow, and the need to protect the safety of the Armenian population which, they claim, the Soviet authorities have not been able to guarantee.

Armenians cite the anti-Armenian pogroms in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait and the continuing Azerbaijani blockade of the rail link with Armenia, which has caused power shortages and hindered earthquake relief and reconstruction work, as examples of how the central authorities have failed the Armenian population.

The general nature of yesterday's presidential decree suggests that it could also be intended as a pre-emptive measure to ease the Baltic republics and the Ukraine move to recruit their own armed forces.

Shortly after Lithuania declared independence, posters were displayed calling for volunteers to defend the new state, and the declaration of sovereignty passed recently by the Ukrainian parliament provides for the republic's own army.

Although Armenia and possibly other areas of the Soviet Union are clearly out of control, it is unclear why Mr Gorbachev has decided to issue a presidential decree authorising action which the leadership of any country would be empowered to take.

The decree will not make it easier for the army or the interior ministry to take action in areas where they will be heavily outnumbered and where public support is likely to be negligible.

Failure to take action, or even defeat, will now only make the central leadership look even weaker.

There are potential problems with firearms even in those regions of the country which have been relatively calm. The incidence of armed robbery has increased dramatically in the past two years and unauthorised ownership of weapons is widespread.

Soviet television recently showed a factory producing hunting rifles which was converting a proportion of its output into machineguns. These were then sold on the black market for vodka.

Debts cleared, page 25



Burning grief: an elderly man, with his grand-daughter, weeping amid the ruins of his home in Uzgea, Soviet Kirghizia, burnt in ethnic unrest over land allocation

## Marshall Plan funds for East Germany

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has given Bonn the go-ahead for a fivefold increase in aid sent to East Germany from the Marshall Plan funds, originally used to rebuild Europe after the Second World War.

Some DM 6 billion (£2.3 billion) will be available in subsidised loans to East Germany this year for pollution control, to boost tourism and to promote small and medium-sized businesses. In May, West Germany announced that DM 1.9 million (£645,000) of Marshall aid was available, but the flood of applications from the East was so large Bonn asked for a big rise in the amount to cope.

Marshall aid was crucial in rebuilding the shattered West German economy after the war. But when the need subsidised Bonn kept the fund going, mostly from the repayment of loans, as a vehicle for regional development, environmental protection and the promotion of small and medium-sized businesses.

Brussels is responsible for scrutinising all state aid to ensure that it does not hinder competition policy within the EC. East Germany is already considered a *de facto* member of the community as far as competition regulations are concerned.

The loans are available to German investors as well as those from any other EC member or outside country wanting to use them in East Germany.

● **Night worker rules:** Every night and shift worker in the European Community must be given a minimum of 11 hours unbroken rest each day, with at least one day off on average every week, according to proposals announced yesterday by Vasso Papatheou, the European commissioner for social affairs (Michael Binyon writes).

But in a significant attempt to disarm British opposition, he said Brussels would not insist on specific new legislation. Countries like Britain

that relied on collective bargaining agreements to establish working hours would be allowed to continue such informal procedures, as long as they could prove that all workers were covered by the beginning of 1993.

Mrs Papatheou said research had proved that more accidents occurred at night than during other work times. Fatigue led to increasing stress, and poor working conditions resulted in poor productivity. Brussels, therefore, insisted on health and safety grounds that night workers should not work more than eight hours in every 24, or do any overtime.

All workers in both private and public employment are to be covered. But exceptions would be allowed for jobs where long shifts were inevitable, such as farm workers at harvest time, for example, or lorry drivers, airline pilots, crew people on oil rigs and those in seasonal jobs. But no one in any of these groups could be kept on long shifts for more than six months at a time.

Most EC countries, except Britain, already insist on minimum rest periods, usually longer than the commission's proposals.

Mrs Papatheou will introduce her plans under majority voting, so that Britain cannot alone veto them. Denmark also opposes commission legislation in this field, but will be appeased by the acceptance of union agreements.

Britain insisted yesterday that its night and shift workers were properly covered under existing health and safety laws. "We recognise that the commission has taken some account of our concerns, but we believe that the proposed controls would be unnecessary and direct attention from higher priorities such as job creation," said a spokesman in Brussels.

## US and EC no nearer settling farm dispute

FROM PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

AFTER two days of critical talks in Geneva, the United States and the European Community appear hardly any closer to settling their dispute over farm subsidies.

They have agreed to use a compromise paper as a means of intensifying negotiations. But the subject of how and how fast to cut subsidies to farmers worldwide have been delayed till late August, further threatening the entire round of global trade liberalisation measures under way in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva, which is due to be concluded in December.

The EC fears massive social

upheaval if the subsidies to many of its 11 million farmers are cut. The US, with just two million people working on the land, argues that farmers should be forced like industry to survive in the market place.

Despite the EC agreement to use the compromise drawn up by Aart de Zeeuw, GATT chief farm negotiator, as a basis for talks, it still rejects key details within it. Ray MacSharry, EC farm commissioner, said: "The Community has made it very clear that Mr de Zeeuw's proposals for sharp reductions on export assistance and for specific commitments on export re-funds are unacceptable."

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## Russians mourn rebel balladeer

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A USUALLY quiet corner of a Moscow cemetery was turned into a tumult of flowers and music yesterday as thousands paid homage to the memory of a ballad singer who is venerated as the spirit of his age. Vladimir Vysotsky was aged only 43 when he died ten years ago yesterday. Hard living, hard drinking and the political exigencies of life in Brezhnev's Soviet Union cut short his life.

Yet he was a popular hero. His acerbic and often bawdy songs were repeated at gatherings of young people all over the Soviet Union. Recordings of his late-night performances at the Taganka theatre in Moscow were passed from hand to hand. And when he died, the word went around the country within hours.

In July 1980, the Moscow Olympics were in full swing and the city was in effect closed. Identity papers were checked at all entry points; car traffic was stopped at the outer ring-road, and police patrolled the streets. When Vysotsky was carried to Vaganovskoe cemetery, however, hundreds of thousands of people followed in what has become a legendary display of popular feeling.

Yesterday people again came from all over the Soviet Union to lay their

flowers and stand for a few seconds at his grave. Rain was no deterrent. The patient queue stretched for half a mile. The flowers people carried were among the most expensive: gladioli, dahlias and roses. An elderly woman brought an enormous wreath and a guitar to lay there. Some young people carried texts of favourite songs and tucked them between the bouquets. Candles stayed lit despite the rain.

A memorial shrine set up on the opposite side of the road included a book for tributes. "Thank you, Vladimir. I remember you," read one. Tver is the old Russian name for the city northwest of Moscow now known as Kalinin. The city council recently asked that the old name be restored.

The inscription captured the essence of Vysotsky's appeal: Russians felt that he dared to express what they had neither the ability nor the courage to do. His ballads, sung in a rasping voice to his own guitar accompaniment, told of Communist party privileges, of the shopping queues, and of the small humiliations suffered by ordinary people. They ridiculed the discrepancy between the promised "bright future" and the grim reality.

"He told things how they were," said

one middle-aged woman at the cemetery yesterday. And, she might have added, at a time when that was forbidden. Over the past four years, Vysotsky has been gradually rehabilitated and claimed by the Soviet establishment. Books of his songs, the expurgated versions, have been published. Records and cassettes are officially produced and sold. Concerts and musical tributes are staged, using pictures and recordings donated by, among others, the KGB archive.

Yesterday the official press published its own tributes. The Communist party's youth paper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, opened its back-page article by asking: "Can you live by your conscience if the very structure of society has none?" In the Gorbachev era, Vysotsky is regarded as one of a select pantheon which includes Andrei Sakharov and several emigre writers (but not yet Alexander Solzhenitsyn) who were guardians of the people's conscience at a time when conscience did not count.

Meanwhile, at the cemetery people listened to renditions of his songs by faithful imitators. The rough voice, the angry tone, the biting words, were all there. But the sense of risk and rebellion which gave Vysotsky his claim to posterity has gone.

## Moving of US gas weapons inspires alarm

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

A MULTI-MILLION dollar operation to destroy chemical weapons, capable of wiping out three times the world's population, starts from the American security base at Clausen, near Kaiserslautern, this morning despite widespread local opposition.

Even though three years' planning have gone into the \$46 million (£25 million) operation, citizens' action groups and the governments of at least two Länder (states), through which the lethal load must pass on its way to eventual destruction on a Pacific atoll, are complaining that security is inadequate.

They say the shells should stay put until better methods of destroying them are developed. Unlike modern chemical weapons, which contain two elements that only become dangerous when mixed, these shells contain the chemical already mixed. A slight crack in a casing could release enough to kill thousands.

For political and weather reasons, the United States wants to move the shells as soon as possible for eventual destruction at Johnston atoll, 700 miles south of Hawaii.

The political reason is to show a willingness to comply with the agreement between President Bush and President Gorbachev this year, to cut stockpiles to 5,000 tonnes by 2002 and ultimately eliminate chemical weapons.

The weather reason is the unpredictability of the North Sea in winter. Two adapted US Navy ships will transport the shells, but they do not want to sail as winter sets in, when the risk of cargo coming loose in a storm would be greater.

● **"Operation Lindworm"**, named after a mythical, endless snake-like beast, is proceeding despite threats — by environmentalists to block the route, by state governments to use the courts to delay, or prevent shipment across their territory, and by dock workers to hinder shipment.

Last week the court in Cologne threw out an attempt by 12 residents on the route to ban the shipment, or "death convoy" as protesters call it, on the ground that it was unsafe. The court accepted that security for carrying the defused shells containing 435 tonnes of Sarin and VX nerve gas was adequate.

This has cleared the way for the first five-mile convoy of 80 vehicles to make the 30-mile journey from Clausen to another American base at Miesau, where the shells will be stored until all 102,000 have been collected, ready for the 300 miles to the North Sea port of Nordenham by train.

Only 20 vehicles will be carrying the airtight steel containers loaded with the shells, which have also had their propellant removed. The rest will include armoured vehicles, decontamination units and transport for firemen.

doctors and troops guarding the convoy.

The route, which will be revealed at the last minute to the carefully picked army drivers, will take two-and-a-half hours, travelling at a maximum speed of 40mph on motorways. Roads and service areas will be closed as the convoy passes and police patrols will prevent anybody overtaking it. Thirty convoys will move the shells. They will set out every weekday until the transfer is completed at the end of August.

The 1,200 personnel involved will be equipped with suits containing an automatic injector which fires atropin into the thigh to counter the effects of the chemical if there is a leak.

Once at Miesau, the shells are to be loaded on trains to the North Sea via one of two routes. Both converge at Bremen, where the city state is taking legal action against the transit. Possible delays are beginning to alarm the state of Lower Saxony, where the port is situated.

## Brando bid to raise \$5m bail

New York — Marlon Brando yesterday struggled to raise \$5 million (£2.8 million) in bail for his eldest son, who is accused of murdering his half-sister's lover (Charles Bremner writes).

The actor put up his estate as half of the \$10 million bail set on Tuesday. His lawyers were contacting bankers and friends to raise the additional half, which is one of the highest in US history. The murder has engrossed Hollywood and the celebrity-watching industry.

## US sailor faces court martial

Rota, Spain — The US Navy has begun a court martial at its naval base in southern Spain of a lieutenant accused on rape of a woman officer on board ship, Lieutenant Robin Brown, who faces life imprisonment, is being defended by a woman officer.

He is alleged to have raped the officer in her cabin on the US ammunition ship *Suriachi* on April 4 when the ship was in Cartagena. (Reuter)

## Soviet soldiers walk to the West

Hanover — For the first time since the border between the two Germanys was effectively abolished this month, three Soviet soldiers have simply walked across the border to the West.

Interior ministry officials said two of three soldiers have requested political asylum in West Germany. (AFP)

## Romania takes first step to privatisation

FROM CATHERINE ADAMS IN BUCHAREST

THE Romanian Senate has unanimously passed the first part of the historic privatisation bill which puts 20 per cent of vital state-owned enterprises into the hands of the workers.

After the vote Adrian Severin, the minister for liaison with parliament, declared the move "an extremely important and radical step on the way to reforms". He said: "We hope it is accepted by the population and that it increases their efforts to work."

The law is at odds with the previous platform of the National Salvation Front, which won a landslide in the May elections with a policy of slow transition to privatisation. A policy of swift reforms was advocated by the opposition parties and dreamed by a population which feared redundancies would follow the privatisation of state-owned enterprises.

Petre Roman, the prime minister, said: "I am glad if our laws incorporate the views of the opposition parties." The law, which is expected to be passed within a week, reverses the policy of the past 42 years and comes just seven months after the revolution

which toppled Ceausescu's communist regime.

It is thought that the law is being pushed through parliament quickly to avert grievances among the workforce over wages and conditions. The bill is being heard simultaneously in the Chamber of Deputies and amendments from both houses are being transmitted daily via an ad hoc committee. Both houses voted to postpone their summer recesses in order to pass the legislation.

The law applies to "industries of strategic importance", such as armaments, railways, energy, telecommunications and mining. Workers will automatically be issued with a voucher at a fixed price, interchangeable between enterprises, which can be converted into share after a year. Anyone aged over 18 with five years' working experience will be eligible, apart from those with a criminal record for "moral or financial crimes".

Mr Severin said: "The process of privatisation is now unstoppable. A part of the state capital will be transferred free of charge in a complete reversal of the nationalisation of 1948."

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## Havel attacks West's boycott of Waldheim

FROM BRENDA FOWLER IN SALZBURG

DISPLAYING his characteristic nerve for confronting issues more as a philosopher than a politician, President Havel of Czechoslovakia has criticised the unspoken "boycott" by Western leaders of Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian president, calling it "a stereotype, a game".

"I do not want to say that this posture did not originally have an ethical basis, and an ethical intensity — of course it did — but through its ritualisation it is made empty and loses its original moral content and becomes a cliché. And there is not an ounce of moral courage in that, but only cold-blooded calculation: if one does not go, then the other does not go. They are

afraid of each other. What is moral in that?" said Mr Havel in an interview published yesterday in the *Salzburger Nachrichten*.

Mr Havel's comments came one day before he is scheduled to meet the Austrian president at the opening of the Salzburg Festival.

Although President Havel did not urge a lifting of the "boycott", he seemed to acknowledge that he was taking a certain risk by speaking out on the subject.

"If I go against a certain fashion, conscious of all the risks that it entails, then that can be for the political good, but at the same time contain an element of moral courage — going against the stream."



# Superpowers near deal on formula for Kabul peace

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration believes it is within sight of a deal with Moscow that could end the decade-long war in Afghanistan between the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul and US-supported Mujahedin rebels.

Officials are optimistic that an agreement-in-principle will be concluded next week when James Baker, the US Secretary of State, meets Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, in Irkutsk, Siberia, for two days of talks on regional matters.

The administration believes that compromise proposals made recently by Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, now represent official Soviet policy, and it views these as being an acceptable basis for a settlement.

The one long-standing disagreement between the superpowers has been the future role of President Najibullah of Afghanistan. The putative agreement would end all superpower arms shipments to Afghanistan and create an interim authority to prepare for and supervise free elections.

The US has dropped its early insistence that Dr Najibullah be barred from standing in these elections. And bowing to US demands that he should not have the advantages of incumbency, Moscow is said to be proposing that during the pre-election period he keep the symbolic post of president but yield control to the interim authority of the secret police, and the defence, interior and information ministries.

"There is a feeling that there is real movement, that the US and Soviet Union are really seriously discussing how to extricate themselves from Afghanistan," an administration official said yesterday. But he cautioned that a superpower agreement alone would not bring peace.

Dr Najibullah's statements indicate that he would go along with such a deal, but the Mujahedin may resist any agreement that gives him a continuing role of any sort. Neighbouring nations such as Pakistan, which has supported the rebels and hoped for a pliant government in Kabul, may also object.

The agreement contains many awkward details to be worked out, such as timetables and who would sit on the interim authority. Officials here say Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze may call in the United Nations, pledging their full support for its efforts to achieve peace and promising to exert maximum pressure on their respective clients in Afghanistan.

In a separate development this week, the Senate select committee on intelligence voted to reduce sharply covert US aid to the Mujahedin, cutting roughly \$100 million (\$549 million) from the estimated \$300 million given last year. The move, although far from final, reflected growing congressional frustration at the continued infighting among the rebel groups and the non-realisation of the administration's contention that the Mujahedin would swiftly overthrow the Kabul regime following the Soviet military withdrawal in February 1989.

Moscow is under equal pressure to end the war. It is currently giving Kabul around \$300 million a month in economic and military aid, and the conflict is a barrier to further improvement of its relations with the United States and the West.

Mr Baker said recently that there was only a "very, very narrow difference" remaining between Washington and Moscow on Afghanistan. The spokesman for the US State Department said the difference was already taking place. There was no question of forcing people to leave. The programme would be reviewed in three months.

The most optimistic estimate is that several hundred thousand refugees could leave this year. Most officials believe the figure will be much lower. Some refugees in Iran are also believed to be returning.

The refugees' hopes of going home rose this year because many Mujahedin leaders have negotiated peace deals with the Kabul government, often in return for money and arms.

But even in these areas deadly conflict between rebel groups remains. Returning refugees also face the danger of heavily armed bandits who roam the countryside.

ABC television, quoting Western diplomatic sources in Moscow, said an immediate ceasefire would be announced next week by Mr Baker, the Secretary of State, and Mr Shevardnadze when they meet.

"We cannot confirm the report. We haven't been informed of such a ceasefire arrangement between Moscow and Washington. All we can say is that, for our part, we are ready for a ceasefire at any point," an Afghan embassy official said.

A spokesman for the US embassy said he did not believe any such comments had come from the American mission. ABC said that under the agreement the US would stop sending arms to anti-government rebels and the Soviet Union would stop supplying the Kabul government.

Now the Japanese have decided that their dogs no longer live without instant pot noodles, the favourite home snack for Japanese people who cannot get to one of the noodle shops that dot every side street. The noodles are cooked by steeping them in boiling water and then pouring in a pouch of seasoning. A pot sells for about



Healing hands: a Liberian girl aged 11, wounded in fighting between government and rebel forces, receiving treatment in Monrovia from a Liberian doctor and a Belgian doctor with Médecins sans Frontières

## China praises 'friendly gestures' by Britain

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

LI PENG, the Chinese prime minister, yesterday warmly greeted Francis Maude and said that China highly valued "the recent friendly gestures" made by Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister.

Mr Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office who was moved to the Treasury in the recent cabinet shuffle, is the first European Community minister to visit China since the Tiananmen Square massacre in June last year which led to an EC ban on high-level visits.

Mr Maude's talks with Mr Li yesterday broke the deadlock in bilateral relations which had virtually halted progress in the complex discussions on Hong Kong, which will come under Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Mr Maude said, however, he had faced the Chinese side with "fairly tough talking on Hong Kong and on human rights", and that he had not come to Peking "with a bundle of concessions".

British sources said it was unlikely that Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, would visit China this year.

After their talks, Mr Maude claimed he and Mr Li had made progress on the two issues which have been bedevilling Britain's policy on Hong Kong. He said that Mr

Li's criticisms of British legislation to grant passports to 250,000 Hong Kong citizens and of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights, both of which China resents, had been "relatively muted". He said that this was an "encouraging sign".

Mr Maude said there had been "not a trace of anger in this meeting from the Chinese side at all". Britain has been the butt of Chinese media attacks without replying in kind.

Mr Maude, however, expressed his displeasure at the attacks in the media and told Mr Li that there had been "too much venting of differences in public... we should try to resolve our differences in private".

Mr Maude described the meeting as very open and productive and said that, while it had produced no dramatic results, he had been able to explain Britain's policies on Hong Kong. Mr Li had "showed understanding of the case we had put".

China has in the past reacted furiously towards the nationality package and has also criticised the Bill of Rights, which enshrines human rights in Hong Kong law. Both pieces of legislation have been formulated to increase confidence in the colony but Peking sees them as eroding China's authority. Mr Maude

had not expected China to backtrack on its previous statements, but was hoping for a restrained reaction. In this regard, he appears to have achieved his objective.

However, diplomatic observers cautioned against premature optimism, given the complexities and sensitivities of the Hong Kong situation.

Mr Maude also said he had raised the issue of human rights with Mr Li, saying that Europe would like to see "further positive moves of the kind we have seen in the past few months", such as the freeing of detainees, the lifting of martial law in Peking and Tibet, and allowing Fang Lizhi, the dissident astrophysicist, to go abroad. If Peking took further such steps, Europe could move towards relaxing sanctions, Mr Maude said. On Tuesday, he had implied that London believed the time had come to resume soft loans to China.

The Chinese response to the human rights request is not clear. Peking is normally infuriated by such requests, claiming that they amount to interference in its domestic affairs. The observers believe Mr Li simply tolerated the request as a price to pay for improved relations with Britain and the EC.



Diplomatic thaw: Francis Maude being welcomed by Li Peng in Peking yesterday

## Japan aid may go to North Korea

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN is considering paying compensation for its colonial occupation of North Korea to improve relations between the two countries now that Pyongyang has shown it is willing to be wooed.

This marks another bold diplomatic overture by To-shiki Kaifu, Japan's prime minister, who has been mending fences and building bridges everywhere since he took office last autumn.

But even if Tokyo dips its hand in its pocket, as it did for Seoul in 1965, there will be a lot of haggling before it agrees to the 700 billion yen (£2.6 billion) that Pyongyang is apparently seeking, ten times what Japan gave in aid and loans to South Korea. Technically, the cash Tokyo gave to Seoul was supposed to clear its debt to the entire Korean peninsula.

Mr Kaifu yesterday hailed an invitation from North Korea for a September visit by members of Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats as a big step towards warmer ties. It will be the first visit to the communist North by a team from Japan's governing party. There are no diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The invitation was issued to a group of Japanese Socialist MPs who have just visited Pyongyang. The team will be led by Shin Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister. Tokyo is also encouraged by signs that North Korea has softened terms for the release of two Japanese seamen it has held for seven years. The sailors were arrested in North Korea in 1983 and given 15-year sentences for spying after a North Korean soldier defected to Japan by stowing away on their cargo boat.

Until now Pyongyang has demanded the return of the seamen before releasing the sailors. But the Socialist MPs relayed a message from North Korea that the issue could be resolved as part of a general improvement in relations.

## Kaunda to free political detainees

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT Kaunda, in what he called a demonstration of the "unleashing of the forces of love", yesterday announced the release of political prisoners and his agreement to the re-registration of voters for Zambia's referendum on whether to keep the country a one-party state.

However, the insistence of campaigners for political pluralism on a new voters' roll - made on the grounds that "millions" of voters refused to register for previous elections under a one-party system - has given Dr Kaunda a firm reason to delay the referendum. He announced that the referendum would be held on August 13 next year, instead of October 17 this year, as originally scheduled, to allow the voters' roll to be updated.

He said the new measures, which included lifting the month-old dusk-to-dawn curfew in Lusaka, the capital, were made not from "extreme weakness, but from extreme strength".

But observers believe that the new referendum date gives Dr Kaunda and his ruling United National Independence Party a welcome breathing space in which to attempt to restore their credibility.

Yesterday's measures and the president's softened image are seen as a result of the riots over food prices last month that turned into overtly anti-Kaunda violence and the quixotic "coup" on June 30.

Dr Kaunda's apparent magnanimity will lead to the release of two people who have become heroes in the eyes of many Zambians - Lieutenant Mwambo Luchembe, who made the bizarre broadcast on national radio on June 30 announcing the president had been overthrown, and Lieutenant-General Christian Tembo, the former commander of the army, who was in the middle of a treason trial and has been in detention since September 1988, when he was arrested with several others on allegations of having plotted Dr Kaunda's overthrow.

Before his arrest, General Tembo was scarcely known, but detailed reporting of the evidence in his trial - including claims that Dr Kaunda had \$5 billion (£2.75 billion) in Swiss banks - brought him to a prominence that had Zambians chanting his name during the coup attempt.

Also to be released is Edward Shamwari, a former judge of the Zambian High Court, who was jailed for life in 1980 on charges of plotting another coup, as well as three others with him, all of whom are now seen as valuable recruits to the campaign to restore multi-party democracy to Zambia after 17 years.

With them will be General Tembo's three former officer colleagues and an unknown number of Lieutenant Luchembe's colleagues. Dr Kaunda also said that those arrested during the rioting in Lusaka would be freed.

He refused to say when the releases would take place. ● NAIROBI: The Kenya government yesterday freed three lawyers recently detained without charge in a drive against proponents of multi-party politics in Kenya, which is by law a one-party state. An official in the president's office identified the three lawyers as: Githu Imanyara, John Khamaniwa and Mohamed Ibrahim.

Still in detention are former cabinet ministers Charles Rubia and Kenneth Matiba, detained by police on July 4, and Raila Odinga, the son of Oginga Odinga, the former vice-president. (AP)

## Refugees return to Afghanistan

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN PESHAWAR

FOR the first time in a decade, some of the five million Afghan refugees are packing their possessions on old lorries, tractors and vans and heading home to their war-ravaged country.

A trickle, growing by the day, has given Pakistan its first glimmer of hope that the burden of housing three million refugees - the other two million are in Iran - might start to ease.

But the procession of men, women and children is being fiercely opposed by fundamentalist Mujahedin groups and Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), which say that nobody should return until the jihad has established an Islamic government in Kabul.

Nevertheless, from Saturday nine official border points will be opened into Afghanistan, manned by officials of the Pakistan government and the United Nations, which are quietly encouraging the refugees' return. Each family will be given 3,300 rupees (£90), help with transportation and initial resettlement costs, and a three-month wheat ration of 660 lb.

Nobody knows how many people will take up the offer. Most will certainly choose to stay behind in the bleak refugee camps, given the risks of returning to a land that is being ruthlessly carved up into rural fiefdoms, each acutely suspicious of its neighbour and all heavily armed.

The repatriation programme will be launched initially in Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province. The Pakistan government said it would allow the refugees to take all their household goods, personal belongings and food. They would be required to

hand in their ration cards, officially ending Pakistan's involvement with them.

Inside Afghanistan, UN officials have established a presence in areas where the refugees are most likely to settle, such as Herat and Kandahar. Western aid workers will be on hand to help with rebuilding homes, digging irrigation canals, planting crops and clearing minefields.

The Pakistani government, fearing fundamentalist Mujahedin groups will attempt to stop the refugees forcibly, has ordered security forces to escort people to the frontier. After that, the families could be in danger if the Mujahedin seek to drive them back. The Peshawar-based Afghan Interim Government, made up of Mujahedin organisations, condemned the programme as illegal.

Officials involved in the project said the aim was to assist the "spontaneous and voluntary repatriation which is already taking place". There was no question of forcing people to leave. The programme would be reviewed in three months.

The most optimistic estimate is that several hundred thousand refugees could leave this year. Most officials believe the figure will be much lower. Some refugees in Iran are also believed to be returning.

The refugees' hopes of going home rose this year because many Mujahedin leaders have negotiated peace deals with the Kabul government, often in return for money and arms.

But even in these areas deadly conflict between rebel groups remains. Returning refugees also face the danger of heavily armed bandits who roam the countryside.

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## Poodle noodles, the snack for dogs with everything

TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joe Joseph

Japanese dogs got used long ago to dating services, to weddings at which they exchange collars, to pets-only hot spring resorts where they can soak away their aches, to take-away food, to bikinis, to yoga, and even to nappies. But isn't serving egg noodles in chicken soup to a peckish Tokyo spaniel taking anthropomorphism a little too far?

The Japanese are not alone in treating their pooches as if they were human beings. Some dog owners in England give their labradors tea and biscuits at around 4 pm. Lucky terriers in France are slipped *foie gras* and croissants now and then. Dogs play along by learning to bark in their owners' tongue. "Bow wow" in English turns into "wan wan" in Japanese.

Now the Japanese have decided that their dogs no longer live without instant pot noodles, the favourite home snack for Japanese people who cannot get to one of the noodle shops that dot every side street. The noodles are cooked by steeping them in boiling water and then pouring in a pouch of seasoning. A pot sells for about

£1.20, for some reason triple the price of the made-for-humans version. The product has been on the market for only two months, but its makers are so pleased with the response that they are planning pet fried noodles and Chinese-style cold noodles. The noodles don't come with doggie chopsticks. Happily, slurping your noodles, even with help from chopsticks, is standard in Japan.

For dogs who prefer something a little more chic on Saturday night than noodles there is still the Sogo department store in Yokohama, which will rustle up a gourmet take-away tray of steak, ham, sausages, cheese and white chocolate for about £50. If they're in need of a break there is the Kinugawa International Hotel in the spa resort of Kinugawa, north of Tokyo. It has a pets-only hot spring where overstressed dogs and cats can peel off their designer jumpers, have a soak, peck at a light supper of boiled chicken and then sleep it off on a pet-size futon.

The only trouble with fashionable Kinugawa is that it can sometimes become a bit of a

catwalk as dogs show off their latest outfits. A favourite shopping place is Adachiya, a pet fashion boutique in Tokyo that can provide everything from pet bikinis and kimonoes to a £5,000 mink coat. For dogs who draw the line at wearing fur, Mitsukoshi, the posh Tokyo department store, stocks fake Burberry raincoats. With the rainy season in full swing, business is brisk. Prices go up to about £60, depending on size. Team it with a casual Snoopy T-shirt, also from Mitsukoshi, only £20. But avoid weekends. Mitsukoshi says the crush can be awful, especially when the new season's lines arrive.

Of course, everything has a price. All this fancy food is producing some fancy illnesses. Pampered dogs in Japan are suffering from gum diseases because they no longer chew enough bones to clean their teeth. More and more owners are taking their pets to vets to have the plaque scraped off. In between visits to the surgery they brush their dog's teeth every day with one of a range of dog toothbrushes that sell for about £4 each.

"I have learned my lesson,"

Fussyo Sekine told the *Asahi* newspaper after hearing that her place is Adachiya, a pet fashion boutique in Tokyo that can provide everything from pet bikinis and kimonoes to a £5,000 mink coat. For dogs who draw the line at wearing fur, Mitsukoshi, the posh Tokyo department store, stocks fake Burberry raincoats. With the rainy season in full swing, business is brisk. Prices go up to about £60, depending on size. Team it with a casual Snoopy T-shirt, also from Mitsukoshi, only £20. But avoid weekends. Mitsukoshi says the crush can be awful, especially when the new season's lines arrive.

Of course gum disease can lead to complications, and some pooches get so fat they pop the buttons on their tuxedos and can move no more. Pet funerals have also become big business.

There are now 80 pet cemeteries in Japan. Some of them charge up to £5,000 for a one-square-yard grave. More convenient is the doorstep facility provided by the Pet Angel Service. A woman dressed in a pink jumpsuit pops your dead loved one in an incinerator in the back of her Jerry, you place some flowers on a little pink altar, she plays a tape of a shrill woman's voice that says "shrink you for taking care of me up till now", and then whoosh. You get to keep the ashes.



But life isn't all fun. Designer dogs soon realise that they are additions to a certain lifestyle rather than mere pets. If those lifestyles are in Tokyo they can be rather cramped, which is why the sort of dogs that fit into a coat pocket or bicycle basket sell well here. Even so, with houses and flats slotted together so compactly, letting dogs be dogs can upset the neighbours. Some Japanese have their dogs' vocal cords cut.

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Britons lost

Teeth survey

Constitution

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Cubans leave



# US deploys its forces to deter attack on Kuwait

From MARTIN FLETCHER in WASHINGTON

AS AMERICAN warships continued to arrive in the Gulf yesterday, it emerged that Washington had also sent air force support planes from Europe to assist jet fighters of the United Arab Emirates and further deter Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Officials said the intensified military activity was designed to demonstrate American support for the small Gulf nations and to signal that the United States would, if necessary, use force to ensure the continued flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

"We are not getting into the Opec business," said one official, referring to disputes among Middle East oil producers about production quotas and price levels. "Our concern is free access to oil. We are making a modest move to indicate our stake."

Another said: "We are not going to war, but you are going to see exercises and you are going to see ships."

Of the four frigates, one destroyer and one command ship in the US Middle Eastern force, two are said to be deployed in the northern Gulf waters off Kuwait while the other four have taken up stations further south.

In addition, two US KC135 tankers and a C141 cargo plane carrying maintenance and support equipment flew out from West Germany. They are said to be conducting air-to-ground communications and refuelling exercises, the latter enhancing the ability of the UAE's Mirage fighters to conduct surveillance flights and to defend their off-shore oil installations against any Iraqi bombing raid.

These are said to be the first joint exercises openly undertaken between UAE and US forces, and the UAE reportedly asked for them over the weekend when the scale of the Iraqi threat became apparent.

In Washington, Iraq's latest missile-firing is exacerbating congressional distaste for a

nation which until two years ago the US was supporting in its war against Iran. Since then congressmen have been appalled by Baghdad's relentless military build-up, its drive to develop long-range missiles and nuclear weapons, its use of chemical weapons, its human rights abuses and the highly inflammatory comments of President Saddam Hussein towards Israel.

Several bills are before both houses of Congress seeking a range of sanctions against Iraq. The US still gives Iraq around \$800 million (\$440 million) a year in commodity and import-export credits. A measure unanimously approved by the Senate banking committee last week would cut this assistance and ban the export to Iraq of any goods that could assist its military-industrial complex.

A similar measure has been passed by the Senate foreign relations committee. "There is a growing sentiment on Capitol Hill that something needs to be done... that we should, at the minimum, stop this assistance," said a Senate aide.

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates yesterday denied a US State Department report that the two countries were conducting joint military manoeuvres in the Gulf.

"There are no joint military manoeuvres or exercises between UAE and American military forces and all reports and comments to date on the matter are an unjustified exaggeration," an official spokesman quoted by the WAM news agency said.

But the UAE spokesman said the Emirates conducted routine military exercises at this time of year to improve their forces' capabilities.

He said the US announcement earlier this week that US forces were engaged in a small-scale exercise referred to a pre-arranged technical training programme unrelated to the current tensions.

Can Opec survive? page 10



Peace gesture: President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and President Mubarak embracing in Baghdad where the Egyptian leader had flown in an effort to ease Gulf tension

## Damascus hostage pledge

From REUTER in DAMASCUS

GERALD Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, left for home yesterday with assurances from Syria that it is trying to obtain the release of the 15 Western hostages in Lebanon, three of whom are Britons.

Mr Kaufman, who had talks with Abdel-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice-president, and Farouk al-Shara, the country's foreign minister, described his visit as "fruitful and constructive", adding: "I found full understanding from Syrian

officials and I was promised that they will exert every effort possible to secure the release of hostages."

Syria, the main foreign power in Lebanon, maintains good ties with Iran and has in the past played a key role in obtaining the release of several hostages. Tehran backs the Hezbollah group, which is believed to be holding most of the hostages.

SIDON: Israel has reinforced its self-declared security zone in south Lebanon,

where Shia Muslim militias are fighting each other, security sources said yesterday. They said a column of about thirty Israeli military vehicles, including Merkava tanks and American-made M113 armoured personnel carriers, crossed into Lebanese territory late on Tuesday and took up positions in the security zone.

Israeli troops also brought 155mm and 175mm artillery batteries into the area, the sources said. (Reuters)

## Experts believe Iraq will stop short of invasion

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE consensus among Middle East experts yesterday was that Iraq would not invade Kuwait, but could succeed in forcing it to cut oil production. That view was reinforced by reports that President Saddam Hussein told President Mubarak of Egypt that he had no plans to invade.

However, Sir Anthony Parsons, a former British ambassador to Iran, pointed out the experts had been wrong in 1980, when Baghdad began to threaten Tehran. "I was at the United Nations and from that vantage point we were very conscious of tension rising. The consensus was that it was sabre-rattling, but it turned out that it was not."

Iraq has always denied that it started the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, and it is true that there was provocation. However, Samir al-Khalil, an Iraqi author, says in his book, *Republic of Fear*, that President Saddam began planning in the spring of 1980 for the invasion which came that September.

Valerie Yorke, author of *The Gulf in the 1980s*, doubted that Iraq was planning an attack, but pointed out that President Saddam was apt to do the opposite of whatever the Western press predicted. If there was much speculation that he was merely sabre-rattling, he might use military force. It seemed unlikely that he would launch an invasion, but an attack on specific targets could not be ruled out.

Heino Kopietz, a senior Middle East analyst of Control Risks Information Service in London, said General Saddam's tactics amounted to extortion. "There is a minimal risk of conflict," he said. Iraq had made its aims clear by demanding \$2.4 billion (£1.3 billion) direct talks with Kuwait. It had revived its old border dispute with Kuwait to strengthen its case.

The Kuwaiti forces were well-equipped but lacked experience, never having fought in a war. Any contest between the two would be a "walkover" for Iraq, he said. "The Kuwaitis would not be able to hold out for more than a few hours."

Their tanks were old and would be irrelevant against

Iraq's might. Their 24 surface-to-air missiles would do some damage to the Iraqi Air Force, but would not alter the outcome. Such a scenario was most unlikely, however. Both the Iraqi threats and the American gestures of naval support were intended to have a psychological, not military, impact.

He felt Kuwait would probably be forced to make concessions on oil production at the Opec meeting. However, it could reply to demands for reparations by pointing out that it had contributed \$30 billion (£16.4 billion) to Iraq's war effort against Iran.

Sir Anthony felt that too much emphasis was being given to the Opec meeting and too little to Iraq's longer-term aims. It had always wanted to bully Kuwait into giving up two islands in the Gulf so that it could use them for military facilities.

Baghdad laid claim to the whole of Kuwait in the early 1960s when British protection ended. "In 1961, when I was in Cairo, there was an apparent threat from Iraq as soon as Kuwait moved out from British protection. Britain moved troops in, and they were replaced later by Arab League forces," Sir Anthony said.

Britain's show of force succeeded, but could not be repeated, Sir Anthony supported the government's low-key diplomacy. "I don't think it is any good jumping up and down unless you are in a position to do something." Britain's interest was to avert war in a region which produced 60 per cent of the world's oil, he added.

Whitehall sources continued to play down Britain's role, saying it was limited to advising the parties to resolve their differences by dialogue. But even this has been conveyed only during routine diplomatic meetings.

Sir John Moberley, consultant to the Middle East programme of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, said President Saddam wanted Iraq to play the leading role in the Arab world.

"His (Saddam's) view is that Iraq's sacrifices in the war with Iran entitle it to that sort of position," he said.

## Saddam rhetoric 'may lead to war'

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

MOSHE Arens, the Israeli defence minister, has warned that threats by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq were raising the prospect of war in the Middle East.

In remarks published widely yesterday in Israeli newspapers, Mr Arens said he feared "Saddam Hussein's rhetoric may get out of his control".

He was quoted as telling a parliamentary committee earlier this week that he had made the same statement last week during meetings in Washington with Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary.

Mr Arens's remarks are the latest of a number of warnings by Israel since President Saddam said in a speech on April 2 that he would retaliate against Israel if Iraq or any other Arab countries were threatened.

"Those who are threatening us with nuclear bombs, we warn them that we will hit them with binary chemical weapons," he said. "I also say that, if Israel dares to hit even one piece of steel on any industrial site, we will make the fire eat half of Israel."

Talks on what level of defence funding the Jewish state will receive next year are taking place in Washington. Israel is concerned about several proposals that could cut its \$3 billion (£1.76 billion) annual allotment, including \$1.8 billion for purely military purposes.

Mr Arens said: "When I was defence minister six years ago, Saddam Hussein and his army were busy conducting a war against Iran. At that time he was not making hostile statements against Israel. Now the war is over and, with its end, his style has also apparently changed."

Earlier this month Major-General Amnon Shahak, Israel's chief of military intelligence, told a news conference that Israel took President Saddam's threats seriously. "There is no red light situation in the region, but perhaps we are in a situation of a green light turning yellow," he added. "Words do have an influence."

## Boesak seeking divorce

Johannesburg — Allan Boesak, the South African Coloured clergyman and anti-apartheid activist, who has admitted to an extra-marital affair with a white television producer, announced that he is resigning from the ministry immediately and seeking a divorce (Ray Kennedy writes).

Dr Boesak and Elna Botha, who is married to a local television presenter, said their marriages were breaking down before they met in January and that they would continue to see each other. Dr Boesak indicated that he would now be involving himself further in politics.

## Britons lost

Two British men, Philip Beadle, a teacher in the Seychelles, and Norman Roberts, who was on holiday visiting him there, are feared to have drowned after falling to return from a fishing trip three weeks ago.

## Teeth survey

Oslø — Norwegian scientists are collecting children's milk teeth in an attempt to assess the public health ramifications of environmental pollution in Eastern Europe. Children from Poland, Hungary and East Germany are involved, and the Soviet Union is thought likely to co-operate.

## Fiji constitution

Suva — Fiji has adopted a constitution that guarantees indigenous Melanesians a legislative majority, a move that had been vehemently condemned by the largely Indian-backed opposition coalition. (AP)

## Chairman goes

Kourou, French Guiana — The chairman of Western Europe's space rocket maker, Ariane-space, said he was resigning to take up a new post with the French company Aérospatiale. Frédéric D'Allest announced his resignation after an Ariane rocket was launched from French Guiana. (Reuters)

## Cubans leave

Havana — Three Cubans who took refuge in the Swiss embassy here on Sunday have left the compound and have been escorted to their homes by embassy staff. The embassy had been given guarantees by the Cuban authorities that the three would not face any prosecution. (AFP)

## Baghdad's firepower puts its neighbour in the shade

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the Iraqi military build-up on the border with Kuwait may be just sabre-rattling, there is no doubt that Baghdad has for years had a contingency plan for attacking its neighbour. In the words of one defence expert, it was "just a question of taking it off the shelf and dusting it down".

Iraq is extensively equipped. Throughout the eight-year war with Iran, Baghdad acquired huge stocks of equipment and, despite some heavy losses in the conflict, the military forces are still over-supplied with weapons, missiles and armour.

The military already will have rehearsed many times over the years the strategy for invading Kuwait. Before Iraq took military action against Iran, the army had practised surprise attacks based on Soviet tactical manoeuvres.

Across the border into Kuwait it is all desert and there are no heavy military emplacements like those built by Iran to counter Iraqi offensives. The Iranian soldiers were well dug in, largely to avoid artillery barrages, which was why the Iraqis turned to

chemical weapons to destroy the emplacements.

Throughout the eight years the Iraqis acquired considerable expertise in large-scale operations, with all the appropriate staff work carried out in the manner of a professional Western army. This experience has given the Iraqis a combat capability that could not be matched by the Kuwaitis, even if they were not outnumbered in both manpower and equipment. The Kuwaiti army has no operational experience.

In a straight comparison, Iraq has total armed forces of a million, which includes an army of 955,000 and an air force of 40,000. Kuwait has 20,300 men, with an army of 16,000, an air force of 2,200 and a navy of 2,100.

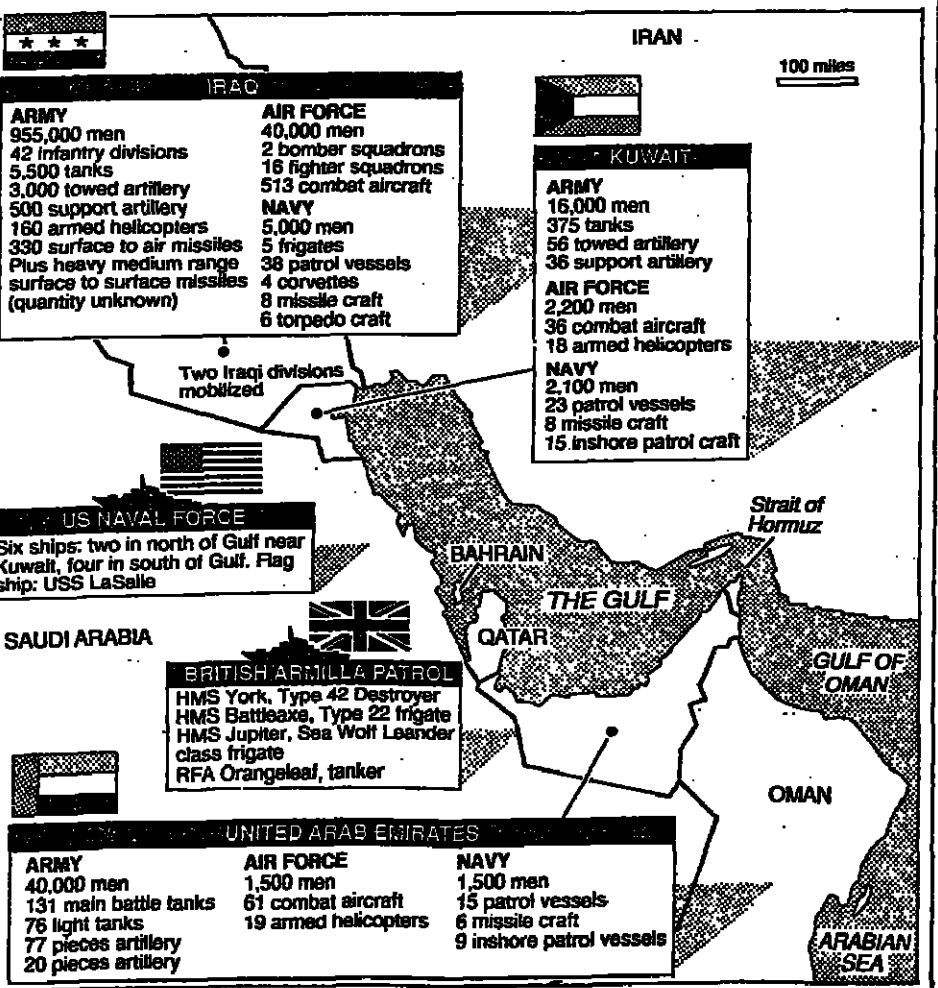
Baghdad has about 5,500 main battle tanks, mostly Soviet and Chinese, of which about 10 per cent are Soviet T72s and 20 per cent T62s. They have 2,500 T54s and T55s. The Iraqis also have some 500 self-propelled and 3,000 towed artillery pieces, including the South African G5 155mm howitzer which

was designed by Gerald Bull, the Canadian-born scientist murdered last March.

Kuwait has only 275 main battle tanks, all of them British, including 40 old Centurions and 165 Chieftains. Its artillery stocks consist of 56 towed and 36 self-propelled systems. Kuwait recently formed an extra brigade but no extra tanks were bought to equip the units.

In the past 12 months Iraq has taken into service 12 Soviet MiG29 fighter aircraft, recognised in the West as one of the most effective combat planes in the world. These fighters were added to an inventory that consists of some 513 combat aircraft, including 70 MiG23s and 64 French Mirages, some equipped with Exocet missiles and in-flight refuelling capability. Kuwait has an air force of 36 combat aircraft, including 24 American A4 Skyhawks, to be replaced by F18s.

The navies bear little comparison. Kuwait has just 23 patrol and coastal combatants, including eight missile craft. Iraq has five frigates and 38 patrol and coastal craft.



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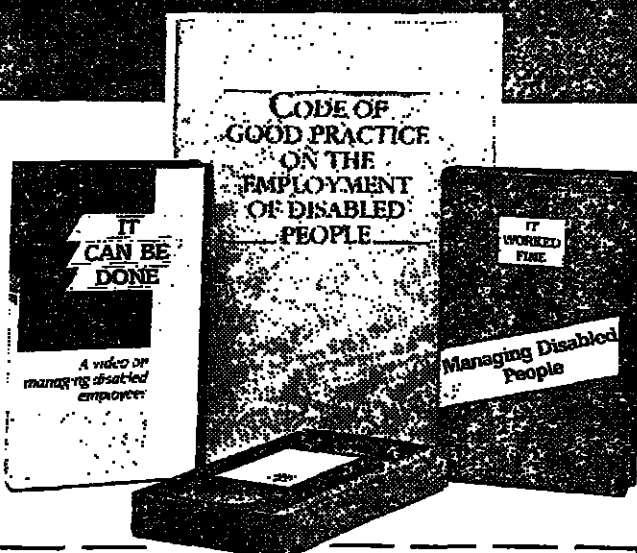
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# Can Opec survive?

Christopher Walker

The 13 fractious members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries begin their formal bargaining session in Geneva today under the shadow of a new Middle East security crisis — but not the one many had expected.

The Cassandras had their eyes firmly fixed — as they have since the end of the Iran-Iraq war two years ago — on Israel. With the hardliners firmly in control following the departure of Yitzhak Shamir and his Labour colleagues from the ruling coalition, and with tension rising over the huge influx of Soviet Jews, Palestinian frustration seemed likely to find an outlet only in a new eruption of violence.

Instead, the thin facade of Arab unity has been torn apart by Iraq's deployment of 30,000 troops along its border with Kuwait as a crude form of pressure for higher oil prices. The Iraqi action exposes the deep differences in Opec and underlines the strategic changes in the area since Iraq and Iran agreed their shaky ceasefire.

During the eight-year Gulf War, when windows in Kuwait were repeatedly shaken by artillery exchanges only a few miles to the north, Iran's brand of revolutionary Islam posed the greatest threat in the conservative and mainly pro-western Arab states.

Despite a border dispute considerably predating independence from Britain in 1961, and a population only one eighth that of Iraq's 17 million, Kuwait was temporarily able to see Iraq not as predator but as protector. Billions of petrodollars were poured into the Iraqi war effort, although many in Kuwait and elsewhere in the Gulf hoped the war would remain on indefinitely, so as to prevent either side causing trouble elsewhere. With the guns silenced, Iraq swiftly resumed attempts to dominate the region.

Far from thanking his fellow Arabs, President Saddam Hussein has castigated them for failing to provide sufficient backing for the war effort. Their help has been compared unfavourably with American Marshall Plan aid to Europe after the second world war. Although he has little intention of repaying credits and loans from the Gulf states estimated at \$30 billion, he would like to see them formally revoked so as to strengthen his chances of securing vital finance elsewhere.

In what appears to be a cavalier snub to the memory of the hundreds of thousands who died in the squalor of the Gulf War, Iraq and Iran have become allies in Opec, both seeking an oil price higher than the present \$18 barrel mark to rebuild their shattered economies. Consequently they are dedicated to putting pressure on such habitual quota-busters as Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to stick to agreed output levels. On price, Iran is more cautious than Iraq, which talks of \$25 this year, moving up to \$30.

Even in Opec, the politicking has never been so acrimonious or so openly supported by military might as it has been before today's biennial session, and the diplomatic bluster and international jitters have revealed a basic conflict within the cartel about long-term strategy which now threatens to break it apart.

Kuwait, which has recently given new promises to stick to quota agreements (though in the past such undertakings have been broken), remains dedicated to keeping prices at around \$18 a barrel. Members of the ruling Sabah family believe this will help to preserve the share of the world energy market enjoyed by oil, and particularly by their own crude. Furthermore, Kuwait has a direct interest in maintaining stability abroad, for earnings from its \$70 billion invested in foreign markets are as great as its oil revenues.

Saudi Arabia, which dominated Opec until Iraq's recent display of muscle, is chiefly concerned about the long-term competitive position of oil as an energy source. Middle Eastern fickleness was deplored in an editorial in yesterday's *Al-Akhar*, the Egyptian newspaper that closely reflects the thinking of President Mubarak: "The two biggest military blocs in the history of the world have managed to settle differences and disputes that once threatened to destroy the world several times," the paper observed of the new US-Soviet accord. "Will the Arabs — who have one religion, one language and one history — fail to do what worse enemies have done with success?"

Egyptian officials were confident yesterday that Mr Mubarak, who is rapidly emerging as the most likely conciliator in this latest Arab dispute, has secured a pledge from the Iraqis not to attack Kuwait's tiny fighting force of just over 20,000 men.

From the outset of the dispute, this had been the shared prediction of western and Arab intelligence experts alike. "The trouble", as one pointed out with disarming honesty, "is the volatile character and unpredictable behaviour of Saddam Hussein. A few months ago I was telling you with certainty that he would never dare to hang Farzad Bazof, the *Observer* journalist. I was wrong."

Meanwhile, in that other cockpit that until yesterday was the chief source of regional concern, the Palestinian problem remains unresolved, the high-technology weapons race between Arabs and Jews is escalating and the Arabs are convinced that the influx of Soviet Jews will irreversibly upset the demographic balance. In this volatile situation, the main lesson of the re-emergence of an old inter-Arab dispute over territory and resources is clear: the Middle East, despite the tedious familiarity of many of its disputes, is a region the rest of the world ignores at its peril.

Bernard Levin applauds the Tory MP who refuses merely to be Commons lobby fodder

## Whips and the insolence of office

Before I get to the substance of the *affaire* Winterton, I must lay down one rule that not only he but everybody else should take care never to break. Whatever the evidence given, do not write an angry seven-page letter to anyone on any subject. There is conclusive evidence, based on years of research, that nobody has ever read a seven-page letter, whoever sent it and whatever it is about, with the single exception of the one St Paul sent to the Hebrews (well, you know what that lot are like) and anyway all they said when they finished was "Verily, he rabbieth on a bit".

True, some of the more colourful passages in Mr Winterton's letter suggest that if he does get thrown out he could make a new career by chalking rude words on walls. Of course party whips are among the lowest form of animal life, ranking just above attorney-general and just below stinging jellyfish, but they can make life difficult for even the most robust MP, and I cannot believe that the chief whip enjoys getting letters saying, among other things, "...the impertinent and discourteous tone of your letter... take severe exception... not prepared to receive ill-considered lectures from you or any member of the Whips' Office... this criticism is beyond contempt..."

On which the only apposite comment is "Attahoy!" Mr Winterton clearly believes that the best form of defence is a swift kick to his opponent's left temple, followed by another to the right. Since I hold the same precept myself, I sympathise, but although I am unable to take Mr Winterton altogether seriously, I believe he is on an admirable ground.

Mr Winterton must have long ago ceased to hope for ministerial office, but he is plainly not content to snore the days away on the back benches; indeed, he holds so many voluntary offices, ranging from the vice-chairmanship of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Paper and Board Industry to vice-president of the Macclesfield and Congleton District Scout Council, that he would hardly have time to be minister of sport.

But he has time to be his own man; and that is where the shoe pinches in the whips' office. The trouble with the whips (one of their troubles, anyway) is their bizarre belief that the nation follows House of Commons division figures with passionate intensity; if the true Tory majority falls in the voting, though retaining a lead over Labour, the whips insist that monster green poisonous vampire bats from Saturn are climbing down

their chimneys at night and biting their toes. So when they study the division lists (the very existence of which the nation neither knows nor cares about), and see that Mr Winterton has by no means a full score-sheet, they start dreaming of stakes and faggots.

It is no use telling them, though I imagine Mr Winterton has done so many times, that he can use his time better — and for his party, too — in ways that do not require him to shuffle nightly through the division lobbies. If his name is not on the list, they want to know why, though when they are told they don't even listen. But that is only the cover for their desire to curb Mr Winterton: what really irks them is not his division record but his willingness to speak his mind, even if what he says is contrary to the party line. The key words in the chief whip's letter (Mr Winterton has now accused him of being the source of its leak — this is getting merrier every minute) are those which reveal that the divisions Mr Winterton has taken part in, he voted against the government in no fewer than 12.

Rarely does anyone point out what a very odd business party politics actually is. You take two or three hundred people, put before them a proposal for action, often manifestly ridiculous, abominable or both, and expect them to

applaud it unanimously. What is more, they mostly do. I said a moment ago that one of the whips' problems is their insistence that all MPs should always be available to go through the division lobby, but that is nothing beside their inmovable conviction that the MPs should invariably go through the same lobby, and in addition that when someone greets both instructions with thumb to nose, they are first bewildered, then outraged, and then they are fit to be tied.

I wish they were. The glory of democracy is that it is capable of tolerating dissent. I would say that that is a definition of it. The whips are not going to throw Mr Winterton into a dungeon, though they would like to. They cannot deprive him of his chances of promotion, for he has no such chances. But because whips are men of limited understanding, they cannot see that Mr Winterton and his like (in a different setting all this goes for Mr Tam Dalyell, too) should be cherished, bloody nuisances though they are. Who but a numskull would think that the party is in danger because Nicholas Winterton knows, when he asks a question, the difference between a lie and the answer, and makes clear that he does? Who but a buffoon would

want to stop such men, however barmy they might be (and you must admit Winterton is nowhere near as barmy as Dalyell), simply because they trouble the surface of the sea of mediocrity which the whips greatly prefer? Who but a poltroon would stifle dissidents like that rather than put them forward as proof of their party's breadth of mind?

Only a whip, of course. Mr Winterton's constituency loyalists seem to support him, which is good news, for now there is even talk of expelling him from the party. Surely even a chief whip would not go so far as to advocate such a solution to this imaginary problem, and if he did I hope Mrs Thatcher would sack him at once. I cannot see why she should want that long why not sack him right now? Mr Winterton, though he is noisy, difficult, obstinate, rude, disobedient, had-tampered, touchy, prolix, vain and pompous, is worth to his party more than the entire contents of the whip's office. If Mrs Thatcher had the nerve, she would do more than sack the chief whip. She would give the job to Mr Winterton. Such a poacher turned gamekeeper would not waste his time crawling through the undergrowth after a straying pheasant; he would have the sense to cook and eat it. And throw the bones to his predecessor.

## The forthright cockney who did the Lambeth leapfrog

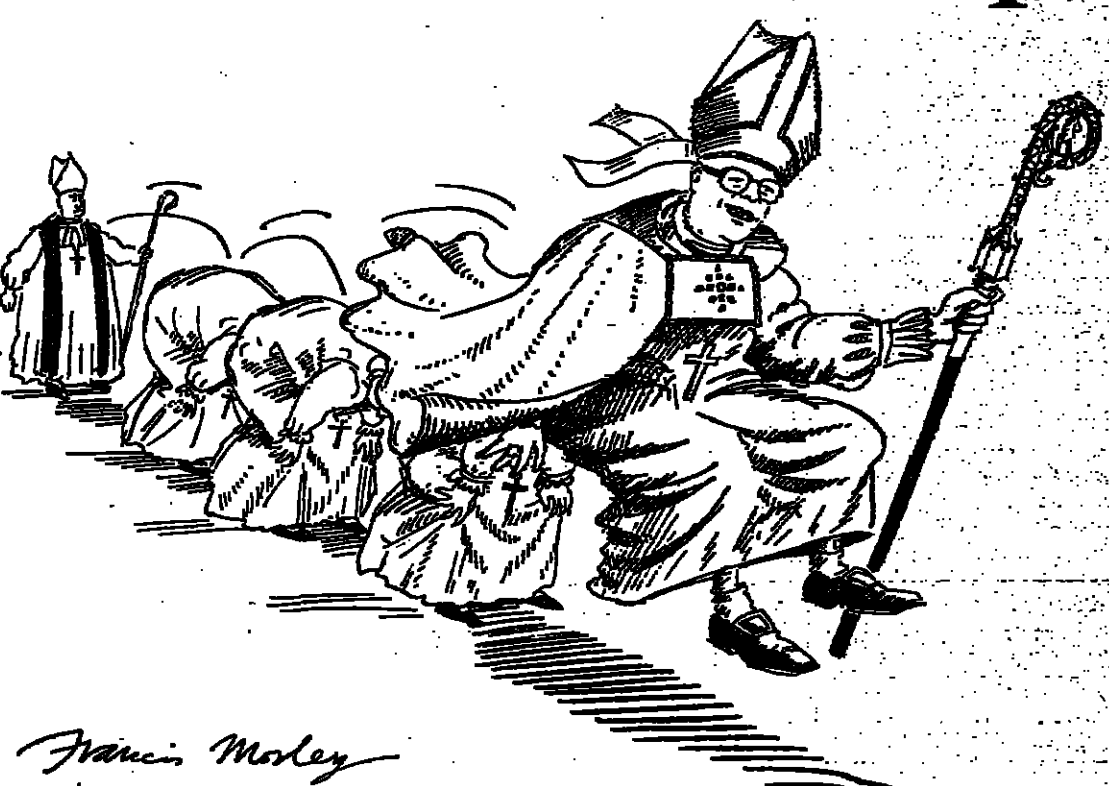
The entire Church of England will have caught its breath yesterday at the unexpected announcement of a new Primate of All England — and especially at the man appointed. George Carey was never a safe and soft candidate, not a grey man of grey opinions, not what you get if you add all the bishops together and divide by 43.

This is an exciting appointment, bold and even risky. It provides a chance — perhaps the last chance — for the Church of England to do something different and thereby to break out of its gentle downwards spiral. One of the youngest and most junior of the bishops, almost untested in high office, has leapfrogged the entire roomful of his elders and betters.

But his promotion is not the result of political acceptability. The prime minister has endorsed a man not afraid to use the leftwards-leaning language of deprivation and social justice. The church, he has said, cannot stand aloof from human pain and misery. The Gospel has political significance. "We have a duty to represent the oppressed and deprived, and to care about moral issues and values." So "Carey bashes Thatcher" headlines should not be ruled out.

When members of the General Synod took part in a private poll earlier this month, the Bishop of Bath and Wells came eighth with only five first preferences, equal with such wild-card names as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Bishop Richard Holloway of Edinburgh. How the Crown Appointments Commission came to a decision so quickly — most churchmen did not expect it before Christmas — is a story its members are sworn never to tell.

Dr Carey is of the Evangelical camp, part of the church's Protestant wing, and by common consent its turn had come for more seats at the top table. The theological colleges — including the one Dr Carey used to run in Bristol — are said to be bulging with them. He was nowhere near the Evangelicals' first choice, however. His commitment to unity with Roman Catholicism is not quite to their taste. He is an intellectual and a theologian —



Clifford Longley believes George Carey is an inspired choice if the church is again to provide a moral lead

which is a further reason for their not being quite sure he is "sound" on the simple fundamentals of the Evangelical creed.

Yet there is logic to the Carey appointment. His studious mind will make him attractive to some who favoured the Archbishop of York — the bench of bishops' leading intellectual — to succeed Dr Runcie. Dr Carey is no less clever, but he is not so sceptically inclined, and favours intellectual rigour. He is more a man to take on the theological liberals at the highest philosophical level.

Dr Carey's Roman Catholic sympathies will make him attractive to those who favoured Bishop David Sheppard, a pioneer of ecumenical work in Liverpool. His working-class origins — he is technically a cockney, son of a hospital porter in the East End — will make him more than attrac-

tive to those who believe the church's most important work in the present day is its *Faith in the City* commitment to the inner cities. Under his vigorous leadership his diocese has raised more than £500,000 for the inner cities, exceeding its target and impressing the administrators of the Church Urban Fund with his dedication to their cause. He also showed he has a lot of energy.

Dr Carey's Evangelical background still breaks through in his style of public speaking and preaching, in a characteristic willingness to talk of the Gospels as a call, of Jesus as the man who calls, of religion as an intensely personal, warm and intimate meeting of the soul with its maker demanding a radical change of life. Middle and high Anglicans tend to be shy of such direct, even emotional, use of religious lan-

guage. Dr Carey is not.

In January all the major churches are due to launch a "decade of evangelism", initially conceived by the Pope. An Evangelical appointment for Canterbury is therefore appropriate — more so if the new archbishop can work with the other churches on a level of partnership and respect, without the notorious "effortless Anglican superiority" which so offends non-Anglican churchmen. On both counts, Dr Carey is the man.

In choosing him, Mrs Thatcher's known impatience with theological and moral wooliness in the church will have been a factor. It is a premise of later Thatcherism that Britain badly needs an injection of "values", both to humanise the otherwise harsh impact of free-market policies and to keep the peace in the

streets. Dr Carey is not reluctant to speak in such terms, and has sometimes echoed her thinking in referring to the "importance of family life".

On moral issues he is a conservative, with views on abortion, homosexuality and divorce which would not be out of place in the Vatican. But his views on the ordination of women would be — and he once uttered an outspoken rebuke for papal teaching on contraception. He is by no means an "on the one hand, on the other hand" Anglican.

Dr Carey upset opponents of the ordination of women in his diocese by asking them to consider whether they had a future in a church with women priests. Anglo-Catholics in Bath and Wells sought to make a *cause célèbre* out of it, saying he was trying to persecute them out of the church, which he had to deny. Although sympathetic to Roman Catholicism, he does not seem to have much patience with Anglo-Catholicism in the Church of England, particularly disliking that flavour associated with misogyny and homosexuality. Some Anglo-Catholics will not be delighted with yesterday's news.

Dr Carey's nobody's mould as a typical Anglican bishop, not least because of his East End origins. And it is not hard to find the explanation of some of his present concerns in his early experiences as an elementary schoolboy and RAF conscript. One in particular is worth remembering. At the end of his service to the *Meeting of Waters*, in which he displayed a knowledge of Roman Catholic theology rare for any Anglican, he left alone an Evangelical. Dr Carey let dip a glimpse of the personal.

"I wish my father were able to read this book," he wrote, "because I think he would have been pleased. He was a hospital porter, and had a very special colleague who was a black Roman Catholic Christian. Both of them were outstanding witnesses in their work. One day my friend said to him: 'It grieves me we cannot meet as Christians round the Table of the Lord down here, but, you know, one day we'll meet around the Lord in glory'."

defence review. He deserves to be permanent secretary. The current deputy under-secretary (policy) — to give Mottram his full title — is an unconventional civil servant who does not think or talk like a Whitehall insider. He graduated not from Oxford or Cambridge but the redbrick University of Keele, spent several years in industry and is said to be a little bit brash. He sounds exactly what Mrs Thatcher thinks a mandarin should be.

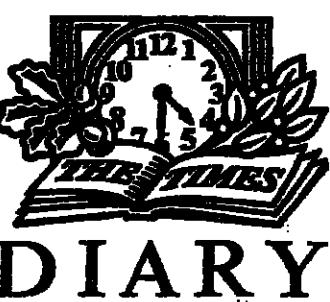
### Congress comforts

The barons of the TUC may no longer be invited for beer and sandwiches at Number Ten, but they are enjoying a much grander lifestyle in their Congress House bunker in central London. Despite falling membership and a dramatic decline in union power and influence, the headquarters, which was recently declared a listed building, has been "refurbished" at a cost of £4 million, and the rank and file are having to foot the bill.

While Norman Willis and other union leaders enjoy their comfortable new surroundings, the TUC finds itself with a deficit of £2.8 million and as a result is raising membership fees by 25 per cent. Dennis Skinner, a former miner and continuing Scargill loyalist, is outraged. "Norman Willis attacks the miners over Libyan funds but he has brought the TUC to the worst financial position in its history. If it were the NUM it would be called a breach of duty." The answer to Willis' difficulties? "Perhaps he ought to apply to Colonel Gaddafi." Skinner suggests.

### Brashly defensive

Richard Mottram, one of the key backroom boys in the defence review — at least before the brass-hats and the politicians got at it — is being tipped for the top. Although the team responsible for the review included senior Whitehall men Roger Jackson, General Sir Richard Vincent and Major-General Thomas Boyd-Carpenter, it is Mottram — a former private secretary to John Nott and Michael Heseltine — whom many believe will end up as permanent secretary at the defence ministry. One of his former bosses says: "He is much the brightest star in the firmament and has clearly been the dominant influence in the



large oil company or bank. We reckoned on finding a sponsor among the American companies in London, but they are not as culturally minded as you might expect." If the money is found, Copland will be asked to attend and take a birthday bow.

Andrew Litton, the American principal conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, says: "Instead of always having concerts in a composer's memory, you could for once have a concert to celebrate a living legend." Copland himself might not be so surprised. "It amazes me every time I come to England that the critics and public there never seem to make any progress with American music," he once said. That was April 1960. Things do not appear to have changed much.

### Whispered trust

The vow of silence taken by Tristan Gard-Jones nearly a decade ago when he became a Tory whip will be broken tonight following his elevation to the ranks of the talking heads as Foreign Office minister of state. In his first appearance in his new job, Gard-Jones will reply for the

### Sandwiched in between

Even before George Carey had a chance to open the congratulatory telegrams yesterday he was given a swift reminder of the kind of controversy that his new job will involve. Critics began by calling for changes in the way archbishops are appointed. The Rev Dr David Samuel, director of the evangelical Church Society, says: "The Crown Appointments Commission needs an influx of lay people to represent more fairly the whole of the church. Carey is a man who will nail his colours firmly to the fence. He is a bit of everything: a bit charismatic, a bit evangelical, a bit liberal and a bit Catholic. His appointment is an inevitable outcome of the present system."

If the extreme conservatives were unhappy, so was the radical wing. "It's a very depressing appointment," says the Rev Richard Kirker, general secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian movement. "At the last Lambeth conference in 1988 Carey was very hostile in the discussions about homosexuals' human rights." He demanded an early meeting with Carey to discuss his attitude.

Others will feel that anyone who can excite such hostility from both extremes must have plenty going for him. Besides, a man who can get through a Westminster Abbey ceremony wearing a makeshift dog-collar fashioned from a British Rail disposable plastic tray can surely take all brickbats in his stride. Carey was travelling by train from Somerset for the ceremony last year when he realised

that he was improperly dressed. Showing *Blue Peter*-style ingenuity he borrowed his wife's manicure scissors and fashioned a collar from the tray on which his sandwiches had been served. "I was able to fool everybody. I am sure the archbishop would have been very amused had he known," he said afterwards.

### 90 in the shade

Aaron Copland, America's greatest living composer, can look forward to a round of musical tributes on his 90th birthday in November. Whether there will be one in London is in doubt. The City of London Chamber Orchestra had hoped to present a short festival of Copland's music at St John's Smith



Square in September, but has yet to find someone prepared to come up with the necessary £15,000. "Next Tuesday I will have to cancel my booking," says Thomas Hull of the City Orchestra. "The money required is peanuts to a

...and moreover

## CLEMENT FREUD

My agent phoned to say she had had a call from an independent film company making a documentary about distinguished men who have lost their hair, and they had asked her whether I would take part.

My appointment book is fairly bare at this time of year, not a lot of action until my ruby wedding party in September, so I said, "Yes, what sort of money can we expect?"

My agent suggested we ask for four figures, and decided to a high three. I advised her to become tetchy at two and refuse lesser sums. That happened a week ago. We arranged to shoot the interview this afternoon in my flat, this entailing a modest fee in compensation for their use of my electricity.

A short, snappy schedule: camera crew set up at 3.30, start rolling 3.45, all over (what is technically called "wrapped") ten minutes later; "which is why we cannot pay a lot of money" the producer had said, adding that she much looked forward to meeting me. Nothing personal in that; producers always look forward to meeting people who appear for a little money.

The researcher, with whom I had discussed the content of the programme, was unable to provide names of the other participants: they were working on this. She expected Yul Brynner, Duncan Goodhew, Lord Longford; I looked like being a borderline case for inclusion in her cast list.

"When did you start losing your hair?" had been the initial question: "Did you mind?" was next, then "What difference did it make to your life?"

I told her that these were all matters that could be appropriately discussed in front of a camera, even as I wondered whether a handful of bald or balding coots would provide more compulsive viewing than, say, a similar number of victims of tooth decay.

I deplore philological euphemisms like "I have lost a lot of hair" instead of "bald" or "I have put on much weight" to signify "fat". Also "temporarily strapped for ready cash" meaning "broke".

Thinking about my contribution, I had decided to pursue the

"I have increased the amount of visible cranium" line; would admit that, given a free choice, more hair is better than less hair, but point out that bald is better than wig and what I do with the remains of mine (cut fairly short by Keith of Smile in the New King's Road and combed away from the crown), is better than *la methode Scargill*. Odd thing about us bald people: we look at hirsute contemporaries with suspicion, point out to all who will listen that so-and-so now has a fuller head of hair than when we worked together in the 1960s. And there is Elton John to give us succour: went bald, had a painful and expensive transplant. Now wears a hat.

At Westminster, there was much opportunity for the examination of scalps, for we sat on tiered benches. Unlike so many parliamentarians who yo-yo from one side of the House to the other, I remained steadfastly on the same second-row opposition bench through five administrations. During Mr Heath's term of office, looking down upon the extroverts beneath the gangway, I was the first to identify Skinner's dandruff. Came Mr Wilson and I got a preview of Tebbit's receding hairline. When Mr Callaghan was PM, I witnessed the amazing sight of the honourable Member for Haltemprice not simply adjusting, but removing and re-positioning his wig. The cameras would have loved that.

At 3.20, I went downstairs, asked the medical receptionist of the house in which I live to admit a film crew plus impedimenta, arriving imminently. I mentioned tripods. She looked impressed.

I went back to my flat to prepare for the interview: grey suit, striped shirt, Liberty tie, a few apposite touches.

The phone rang at 3.50. "This is the film unit you were expecting," said a woman. "I am afraid we are running a bit late, see you shortly."

I told her that I had another engagement at 4 pm, to do with an up-coming family celebration. She said she was really sorry — perhaps we could reschedule? I said perhaps and ran a bath to shampoo the make-up from my scalp. Over to you, Yul.

هكذا من الجاهل



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## A BATTLE SHIRKED

Know your enemy. A nation's defence must be based on its capacity to define its enemies. From this definition arises a scale of priorities, and from these priorities arise expenditure. Without priority, armies, navies and air forces are just extravaganzas, gestures of machismo, manifestations of service inertia.

Not since the second world war has thinking about the defence of Britain been thrown into such confusion as following the events in Eastern Europe in the past six months. The 45-year-old enemy, the Warsaw Pact, has been beaten in one of history's great victories, great because so little blood was spilled to achieve it.

But the defeat has not been sealed by any ceasefire or treaty or settlement. The enemy has simply rolled over exhausted, vindictive, the we-can-outspend-them theory of military deterrence. The Warsaw Pact is defunct and the ideological aggression which lay behind its formation has evaporated. The days of the forcible propagation of Comintern imperialism are over. Without the pact, surprise aggression would be difficult to mount — even on the worst case assumption that Greater Russia could recover from its severe domestic difficulties and seek to reassert regional or even global hegemony. The West would have warning, and time to rebuild its defences.

How to react to this traumatic, if happy, revolution has led in recent months to an exciting and important division of approach within Britain's defence establishment. On the one hand is the cautious faction, typified by the prime minister's eagerness to continue with the modernising of Nato and in fierce lobbying by defence spokesmen. To them, the suddenness of the Warsaw Pact's demise and the instability of the Soviet Union dictates a policy of wait-and-see. The fundamentals of East-West defence planning should not change, yet Russia remains an unknown political entity, its vast army still in place.

By all means let Nato rethink the central European theatre, says this faction, but not at the expense of a lowered guard. Not surprisingly, this view has wide support from the services, the defence industries and the navy and ordnance constituencies. Those of a conservative temperament everywhere can take relief in the view that the world is no better, it is much the same. Difficult questions can be shelved by the doctrine of *unripe time*.

On the other hand are the radicals, championed by the junior defence minister, Alan Clark (no left-winger), by "peace dividend" lobbyists, and by such thoughtful contributors as this week's report from the Safer World foundation, which said Britain's defence budget could be slashed by a half. To them, the concept of a threat to Britain's defences has irrevocably changed over the past year — indeed has been changing unnoticed for a decade of Soviet decay — and with it the basis of the defence debate.

Britain has won and lost enemies throughout its history: Spain in the 16th century, France in the 19th, Germany in the first half of the 20th. Now it has seen off the Warsaw Pact. Who will the next enemy be? Whence will emanate the threat? What weapons are required to meet it? These questions must be addressed quickly, because not just billions of hard-earned pounds are at stake, but the proper defence of the nation too.

On this argument, defence planning is now risking the oldest failing in the military book: that of fighting the last war but one. To continue to plan for a massive conventional battle in central Europe would be ludicrous: a review worth its salt would not have rested content with reducing force strengths in West Germany, but would have changed the entire balance and character of the forces accordingly. New weapons systems in the pipeline, such as the European Fighter Aircraft or more type-23 frigates or the Chieftain replacement tank, planned with East-West conflict in mind, will take ten years to realise. This is absurd in the light of what is now known of likely threats.

Technological and political change has collapsed the priority still given to large standing armies and navies, much of whose operational thinking is still pre-Cold War. The radicals ask whether expensive fighter planes are still necessary, or large carrier groups.

Should we not spend money on purely defensive systems, on smart weapons, on electronic quality not human quantity? Depending on the answers to these questions, between a quarter and a half of Britain's annual defence bill could be saved over the next decade, yielding a huge peace dividend of up to £24 billion.

Tom King, the defence secretary, has certainly made an effort to resolve this dichotomy. The closeness of Britain's defence establishment, the growing fusion of service planning and years of Treasury pressure have greatly improved the quality of thinking in Whitehall. Britain is regarded as more able to conduct a radical defence review than the service-dominated ministries of most Nato countries — or ought to be.

However, the five-year plan, Options for Change, published yesterday shows that the dichotomy has not been resolved. Even given due allowance for the need to consult Britain's Nato allies, the cautious faction has clearly triumphed. In emphasising (correctly) the importance of "the safe protection of our country", Mr King significantly added the "fair consideration of those whose task that is". The defence chiefs have indeed been considered. Mr King's message is that any recasting of Britain's defence posture must await events in Moscow over the next five years — cynics might add, events in Downing Street as well.

Radicalism has conceded victory to Whitehall's traditional pragmatism, as represented by defence chiefs who saw their establishments and weapons projects threatened by Mr Clark and his friends. In delegations to see the prime minister, in dozens of letters to *The Times*, in the blood-spattered corridors of Whitehall, the army, navy and air force have found common cause. Another hated "defence review" has been fought off. The intellectuals who constantly seek to "rethink" Britain's defence posture, and who this year had common sense on their side, have been sent packing. The services have returned to the familiar game of doing annual battle with the Treasury.

Without rethinking, this annual battle can now have no meaning. The Treasury is being asked to supply funds to fight a near-inconceivable war, and has responded in the only way it knows how, by telling the defence chiefs that they can continue with the Cold War but must, to put it crudely, do so less 10 per cent. If the defence ministry is not prepared to offer up new priorities, then good old Procrustes must be summoned once more, lopping bits off here and stretching them there until the annual public spending requirements have been satisfied.

The result has been the proposals — hardly "options" — served up by Mr King yesterday: a 10-15 per cent cut in warship numbers (with no cuts in aircraft carriers or Trident), a halving of the Rhine army, an 18 per cent reduction in service manpower overall, no change in "out of area" defence commitments, a small reduction in Tornado squadrons. There was no questioning of the future of fighters, or manned tanks, or aircraft carriers (which have survived every defence review since the decision was taken to phase them out in the 1960s). While Mr King certainly implied further thinking "in a Nato context" on force reductions, he was scrupulous in protecting the favoured projects of each of his services.

Mr King has cleverly dressed up old-style defence planning by Treasury pressure as a response to the "new realities" of East-West diplomacy. But his is defence planning by Treasury pressure none the less. He has given no glimpse of the debate seething within his department this past year. He has not dared to question military priorities. He has not indicated what he means by his catchphrase "smaller but better". He has made the minimum cuts that might be considered defensible, not on the battlefields of Europe or in the corridors of the Kremlin, but in cabinet conclave before voracious colleagues.

What this means is simple. The same battle will have to occur again next year, and the year after, and the year after that, until somebody comes along and asks what forces, and what money, are really needed to defend Britain in the 21st century.

## PARLIAMENT OF THE ABSURD

As they leave Westminster this afternoon, MPs should vow to end the arcane tradition of all-night sittings during the week before the long summer recess. To keep the Commons in session for 19 hours on end, wasting public money and harming MPs' health, just to let half a dozen MPs dig information out of ministers, is blatantly inefficient. If boorish behaviour diminishes the reputation of individual MPs, such botched conduct of what they like to call "the nation's business" detracts from the reputation of the Commons as a whole.

"Procedure," a distinguished constitutional historian once wrote, "is the only constitution the poor Briton has" and parliamentary procedure (which is Protean in form while fixed in its objective of enabling the elected Commons to call the executive to account) is the best guardian we have of the subject's liberty. The trouble starts with the Commons' predilection for performing one function when it is formally fulfilling another.

The Consolidated Fund bill that occasions these end-of-term marathons is a part of the Commons' grant of annual financial supply to the government. Formally, the second reading asserts the Commons' authority over money, but in practice the bill passes automatically. Instead, MPs use the bill's second reading to raise various topics with ministers, in a series of 90-minute debates.

For the few MPs actively engaged, this doubtless is a laudable exercise in making ministers properly accountable. For the rest, waiting wearily to register their votes on a three-line whip in the small hours of the morning, it is a grotesque waste of time. The morning, it is a grotesque waste of time. The morning, it is a grotesque waste of time. The morning, it is a grotesque waste of time. The morning, it is a grotesque waste of time.

parties, their families and the Commons, are the symptoms of exhaustion.

This year four Labour MPs in their forties have died, two of heart attacks, and rightly or wrongly a connection has been made with the unsocial hours that British MPs work, committed to the House every evening and, occasionally, all night. The potential risks to family life and marriage are obvious. There is little justification for these occupational hazards. It is sometimes argued that the practice of meeting in the afternoons and evenings enables some MPs to have other jobs which enlarge their knowledge to the benefit of the House. A better way of putting this argument is that MPs will not reform parliament as long as they can make more money while it is unreformed.

Occasional all-night sittings, as an Opposition resists a government measure, do have a political function. The closure and the guillotine, invented at the end of the last century to deal with Irish disruption of parliamentary business, have given the government control of the Commons' timetable. The Opposition can bring some pressure to bear by trying to deny the government some of that time.

But the pantomime accompanying the Consolidated Fund bill is something apart. If MPs deserve the opportunity to question ministers, they should be enabled to do so in civilised hours. The present procedure is plain eccentricity, an indulgence in antique forms for their own sake. No commercial business, nationalised industry or local council would so conduct itself. Although parliamentary politics, moved by passion and prejudice as well as by reasoned argument, should not be restricted by the chilly calculus of profit and loss, that hardly justifies rules of play which invite derision. The Commons should change them.

## Easing London's travel problems

From Sir Keith Bright

Sir, Parkinson's new Red Route law (report, July 24) risks foundering on Parkinson's old law, which in this context indicates that traffic expands to fill the available road space. May I propose a simple modification that requires only a little political will and sensible use of the proposed (and very welcome) new Londonwide traffic directorate?

Peak-hour passengers living in London or arriving at British Rail termini need moving quickly to their destinations. The quickest way at present is by Underground, but stations often have to be closed now because of overcrowding. Meanwhile the poor old buses languish in traffic jams overground. Why not use buses to operate the equivalent of a rush-hour tram service, on designated routes which approximately follow the Underground lines?

These routes would often, but not always, start at a BR station, thereby preventing passengers from descending underground, and run but a few miles to an appropriate destination with the distance between stops roughly the same as on the Underground. During peak hours all other vehicles would need to be prohibited on these routes: penalties should not stop short of removing the licence of the offending vehicle or, better still, its driver. Delivery vehicles and private motorists would just have to learn to pay

their visits outside specified hours.

There is a ten-year lead time to increase capacity on the Underground, but extra buses — possibly like the new ones being used at airports — can be provided very quickly. It is worth noting that in the smaller city of Paris, where they order these things better, the proportion of bus routes protected by specially designated (and vigorously policed) bus lanes is ten times that in London.

In order to speed up bus travel, it is essential to convert all public transport in London to a cashless system involving the present travel cards, smart cards (similar to 'phone cards) and even simple carnets of tickets for the less frequent traveller. As in continental cities, passengers would quickly get used to this providing the tickets were readily available.

A simple solution, then, to a complex problem. Why not try it on one or two routes where underground overcrowding is at its worst and see what happens? The Central Line would be attacked first by running express buses between Liverpool Street and St Paul's from 7.30 am until 9.30 am, and from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH BRIGHT  
(Chairman, London Transport, 1982-8),  
16 Westbourne Park Villas, W2, July 25.

## TV listings

From the Director of the National Consumer Council

Sir, The National Consumer Council welcomes the Government's attempt, in the Broadcasting Bill currently passing through Parliament, to end the *TV Times/Radio Times* duopoly of weekly TV listings.

But the Government has left the door wide open for the owners of *TV Times* and *Radio Times* to charge high fees to publishers for the use of information on weekly TV schedules.

The cost of high licence fees for weekly TV listings will have to be passed on to the consumer. In effect readers who have never chosen to buy *Radio Times* or *TV Times* but choose to buy a newspaper with TV listings will be taxed by the owners of *TV Times* and *Radio Times*.

The National Consumer Council believes that the basic information of date, time and title of TV programmes should be available

to all publishers at a nominal sum so that all publications can carry the information that the public want.

Furthermore, viewers of BBC and ITV on the Continent have access, through local magazines, to weekly listings supplied direct and free by BBC and ITV companies. It seems extraordinary that BBC and ITV viewers on mainland Europe have a better service, from their listings papers than do those who pay for the services.

In the House of Lords on Thursday (July 26) peers will debate amendments to the Broadcasting Bill, from Lord Annan and Lord Stockton, which will ensure that UK consumers will have a real choice of TV listings information at a reasonable price. The NCC hopes that these amendments will have wide support.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE HEALY, Director,  
National Consumer Council,  
20 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1, July 24.

## BBC policy on music

From Mr Duncan Rutter

Sir, I hope that Richard Morrison's timely comments on the role of the BBC house orchestras (article, July 20) will convince even the BBC's musical establishment that opposition to its orchestral policies is not confined to Philistines and tone-deaf accountants.

Every independent orchestra in London as well as the provinces has suffered in recent years from reductions in broadcasting time. Has the BBC ever attempted to find out whether the listening public wants to hear relatively little of our independent orchestras so that their house orchestras can fill up their timesheets at the TV licence-payer's expense?

There may have been some justification in the 1930s for maintaining one publicly-funded BBC orchestra to enable London to hold its own with Vienna and Berlin. Any of the major London orchestras can do that now. But what justification can there have been, at any time, for maintaining

a BBC presence in locations where well-established bodies already exist?

What a splendid institution the Served would be if they were served equally by all our independent London and regional orchestras supplemented by visitors from abroad. That would present a truly national festival of our orchestral talent, and would be something the BBC could legitimately and proudly promote.

Yours faithfully,  
DUNCAN RUTTER,  
30c Kew Green,  
Richmond, Surrey, July 23.

From Mr D. W. Parry  
Sir, Richard Morrison is concerned about commercial influences on the BBC. But if the "Resurrection" (First night of the Proms, July 20) can be delayed for ten minutes because of a cricket match, it seems that more sinister, even diabolical, influences are at work.

Yours etc.,  
D. W. PARRY,  
6 Alenay Road, SE21, July 20.

## A view of history

From Professor E. J. Hobsbawm, FBA

Sir, Readers will judge for themselves how far Jonathan Clark's farrago represents my *Echoes of the Marcellaise* (Saturday Review, July 21). I only write to correct two obvious misreadings.

In rejecting "the theorists who see all reality purely as a mental construction beyond which analysis cannot penetrate" I am plainly not arguing for Marxism but for any history which believes that we can say something about what really happened and why. And I am quite specifically not identifying "the values on which modern civilisation has been built since the American Revolution" with

marxism, but with "the values of reason and the Enlightenment" which Marx — but by no means he alone — shared.

Their "opposites" (left unquoted by Clark) which I think "are once again gaining on us" I describe as "irrationalism, fundamentalist religion, obscurantism and barbarity." I would be interested to see which of these he does not disclaim.

Yours etc.,  
E. J. HOBSBAWM,  
The United Nations University,  
World Institute for Development Economics Research,  
Annankatu 42c,  
00100 Helsinki 10,  
Finland, July 24.

## Prison staffing

From Professor P. Stanley

Sir, In your report (July 19) on the Council of Europe's survey of prison staffing levels it is stated that "England and Wales... was below average" in this respect. This is an incorrect and misleading interpretation of the figures.

From these figures the ratio of prison officers per 100 prisoners is obtained as 43.3. The average of the ratios given for 14 west European countries is 49.4, but this is a false average with no clear simple significance and any comparisons with it are fallacious.

The true average is the total number of prison officers in the 14 countries divided by the total number of prisoners (in hundreds); this turns out to be 35.7. The ratio for England and Wales is considerably greater than this.

Yours faithfully,  
P. STANLEY,  
7 Croft Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

## Right and left

From Professor Ted Honderich

Sir, Conor Cruise O'Brien (July 11) takes issue with my regarding Edmund Burke as a partisan of a party of self-interest, lacking a moral rationale. In speaking of a party, as seems clear, I was speaking generally, of the tradition of Conservatism, the subject of my book.

Dr O'Brien cannot do great damage to my proposition by remembering that Burke isolated himself from a particular political party at Westminster when writing and publishing his *Reflections*, and hence in a particular sense had no party at all. He remained within, indeed the exemplar of, the tradition of Conservatism.

Dr O'Brien also raises an issue having to do with Burke the man throughout his career, as distinct from the ideology to which he gave so splendid an expression. Was Burke the man as self-interested as many have said? I am not as concerned with that lesser and separable question, but somewhat moved by Dr O'Brien's defence.

## Change of heart on European law

From Mr Dennis Thompson

Sir, Lord Denning (report, July 17) is attacking the European Court of Justice. When Alan Campbell (now Lord Campbell of Alloway) and I produced in 1962 what was, I believe, the first commentary on the Rome Treaty in English, Lord Denning was good enough to write a foreword. While in no way diminishing our gratitude for this, it is fair to refer to what he wrote in the course of it:

How are we to make the Treaty part of our English law? Are we to have a short Act of Parliament, with the Treaty scheduled to it, saying it is to be law? If so we have plenty of problems ahead, because our courts do not interpret treaties as others do. We do not look at *travaux préparatoires*. And if the Treaty is made part of our law in that way, our courts will be faced with the well-known impossible task of saying how far the Treaty abrogates our own statute and common law. The last word on the Treaty will rest, not with our courts, not even with the House of Lords, but with the Court of Justice at Luxembourg.

Yours faithfully,  
DENNIS THOMPSON  
(International consultant on world trade law),  
8 rue des Belles Filles,  
CH-1299 Crans, Vaud,  
Switzerland, July 20.

## EC practice

From the Director General (Competition), Commission of the European Communities

Sir, Teddy Taylor asks in his letter (July 23) why the European Commission sends its inspectors into the private offices of company directors. The answer is quite straightforward: to investigate whether companies are indulging in practices which may lead to the fixing of prices, to the carve-up of markets between them or to keeping out competitors. It is a long-standing, legitimate and necessary practice, which is only followed when there is good reason to believe it will help our enquiries. It has often led to the discovery of crucial evidence and the break-up of some very big cartels which were designed to thwart free competition.

Mr Taylor refers to one recent example where Commission inspectors visited a company in the United Kingdom. He alleges that private bank accounts were inspected. The allegation is untrue.

## Muslim attitudes

From Dr Yaqub Zaki

Sir, Dr Kalim Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute (reports, July 16, 18; letter, July 23) did not call for a separate Muslim "parliament" when he spoke at London University on July 14. He said:

We cannot establish a territorial Islamic state in Britain... But what we can do is the next best thing: we can now create a range of institutions in Britain that will protect us from predatory forces and develop our distinctive culture and identity.

This is precisely what the Jews have done with the Board of Deputies, which functions as a non-legislative government (of Jews) in the UK. Likewise, in the Church of England Synod, Anglicans have what is virtually a tricameral parliament (episcopate, clergy and laity), occupying itself with matters of church government, but sometimes pronouncing on other issues as well.

It is difficult to see how any reasonable person could object to Muslims having the same; indeed

And again he wrote:

Whatever the means used to implement the Treaty in England, it will have a most profound impact on many parts of our law. Our constitutional law must be rewritten so as to show that the sovereignty of these islands is not ours alone but shared with others. Large parts of our statute and our common law must over the years be adjusted. We shall have to alter our legal thinking so as to put it in a European setting. But it will not be, I hope, a one-way traffic. The commercial law of England can stand comparison with that of any other country and it has its own contribution to make to the common law of Europe.

Lord Denning's present misgivings can scarcely be for want of foresight.

Yours faithfully,  
DENNIS THOMPSON  
(International consultant on world trade law),  
8 rue des Belles Filles,  
CH-1299 Crans, Vaud,  
Switzerland, July 20.

This particular visit was arranged in full cooperation with the company concerned and served to provide further information in relation to a current case.

Mr Taylor's letter also refers to the European insurance market. He is apparently not aware of the changes which are now taking place. The German market is indeed "opening up" as Sir Leon Brittan said in his recent *Times* article (July 18). Substantial progress was made with the coming into force of the second non-life directive at the beginning of July: ministers are on the point of deciding on substantial new progress on life assurance; and we are confident of creating a genuine single market in this sector by the end of 1992.

Yours etc.,  
CLAUS-DIETER EHLERMANN,  
Director General (Competition),  
Commission of the European Communities,  
rue de la Loi 200,  
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium, July 23.

it should benefit all parties for Muslims to have a representative body that would represent their interests to the proper authority every time a dispute arose. As Muslims are not a race, Islam being a universal religion like Christianity or Buddhism, they are not, unlike Jews, who are adherents of a race-based religion like Shintoism or Hinduism, protected under the provisions of the Race Relations Act.

As someone concerned professionally in the teaching of comparative religion I cannot sufficiently deplore the ignorance of that subject betrayed by our legislators in both Houses when they framed the act. They should have known that religions are of two types, ethnic and universal, and not discriminated unfairly in favour of one type against the other.

Yours faithfully,  
Yaqub ZAKI (adviser on comparative religion),  
Muslim Institute,  
6 Endsleigh Street, WC1, July 24.

## St Helena's pride

From Mr Antony Wild

Sir, Lord Shackleton and others (July 23) are quite correct to point out our obligations to St Helena, but in my experience there is more cause for optimism than their letter would suggest.

I have had the good fortune to import the entire one-tonne coffee crop of the island for the last year, and as a result have come into contact with many individuals and organisations concerned with St Helena, all of whom have displayed great enthusiasm and energy in helping to put the neglected colony back on the map. I have been touched by the obvious pride which the islanders have taken in the fact that something they have produced has been sold back to the mother country. No amount of taxpayers' money, wasted or wisely spent, could give them that.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTONY WILD,  
Myton Old Hall,  
Myton-on-Swale,  
Helphrey, York, July 23.

## Education funds

From Mr D. Leafe

Sir, You report (July 17) that Margaret Madden, Warwickshire's director of education, rejects Mr MacGregor's claim that education officers are withholding funds from schools to the benefit of central services.

In the community charge circular "Warwickshire's Spending Explained" it is revealed that the county employs some 5,000 teachers and lecturers. In addition for every two teachers employed there is one person employed in other aspects of education.

In absolute terms in 1990-91 the number of teachers reduced by three from the previous year whilst the others increased by 50. QED?

Yours faithfully,  
D. LEAFE,  
14 Linen Street,  
Warwick, July 17.

## Baptism bar

From Mr M. V. B. Rivière

Sir, The christening service in the Book of Common Prayer requires no affirmation of faith or practice from the parents of a child whatever (letters, July 20). So long as it has three Christian sponsors, it may be baptised; and I dare say many of us were brought into the frame of salvation, as it were, in this manner. Only the authors and users of the Alternative Service Book bar the children of non-Christian parents from this sacrament.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL RIVIÈRE,  
Dilham Grange,  
North Walsham, Norfolk, July 20.

## Muscular Christianity

From Mr Paul Antill

Sir, I was delighted to read among the university results (July 21) that the University of Bangor has awarded a degree in Religious Studies and Physical Education. Yours etc.,  
PAUL ANTILL,  
Flat 6, St Brenda's Court,  
Clifton Park,  
Bristol, Avon, July 23.











# The walls came tumbling down

The devastating earthquakes which hit Iran last month left up to 40,000 people dead and half a million homeless, while a massive earthquake in the Philippines last week killed more than a thousand. In Iran, the quake measured 7.3 on the Richter scale and in the Philippines 7.7.

On May 30, an earthquake, measuring 6.9 on the scale and centred in the East Caprathians, shook Romania and was felt in Moscow, 1,300 km away. Just one day earlier, northern Peru was rattled by a magnitude 6.3 quake, which set off mudslides and killed several hundred people.

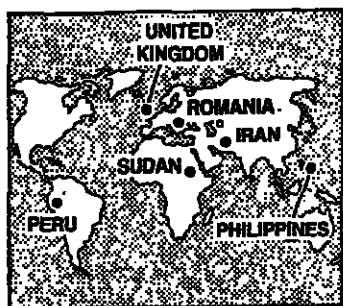
The Richter scale is logarithmic, and each unit increase corresponds to a 10-fold increase in the size of the earthquake, so that a quake measuring 2 on the scale is ten times as big as a quake measuring 1, and a quake measuring 3 is 100 times greater.

The magnitude of the earthquake is important, but the destructive force of even a strong quake is greatly reduced if the motion is centred deep within the Earth's crust.

Although analysis of earthquakes is providing insights into the interior of the Earth and the movements of the planet's crust, earthquake prediction is still in its infancy.

Ancient Chinese wisdom suggests that animals can be sensitive detectors of coming earthquakes. Other popular theories rely on the statistics of past earthquakes, or

As the world is rocked by a series of recent earthquakes, Nina Morgan reports on a new method for predicting disaster



measuring very small movements in the Earth's crust.

Scientists from the British Geological Survey (BGS) are examining a theory conceived by Dr Stuart Crampin, of the BGS and the department of geophysics at Edinburgh University, which suggests that monitoring a type of seismic wave generated by tiny earthquakes will allow large quakes to be predicted a few days in advance.

Another project, known as Mednet and headed by the National Geophysical Institute in

Rome, involves the setting up of a network of high resolution seismometers around the Mediterranean to examine seismic waves generated by small earthquakes. Many scientists see this network as an essential first step towards reliable earthquake prediction.

Despite public interest in prediction, some scientists question its value. Dr Robin Adams, of the International Seismological Centre in Thatcham, Berkshire, supports the idea that the best action against earthquakes is good defence. "You can't stop earthquakes from happening. What you have to do is to look at the probability of an earthquake occurring and construct buildings to withstand them," he says. Earthquakes do not kill, buildings do. "An earthquake is like a punch. If no one is there to take the punch it doesn't hurt."

Seismic risk is a term that combines the probability of an earthquake with factors such as population density, soil conditions and building codes. Dr Nick Ambraseys, head of the engineering seismology section of the department of civil engineering at Imperial College in London, uses a simple equation to explain risk: Risk = hazard x vulnerability x specific value. Hazard is defined as our exposure to natural forces such as earthquakes. We can do nothing about these.

Vulnerability, an aspect over which we do have control, is a measure of the likelihood of build-



Homeless: a peasant holds up his hands in despair after the Iranian earthquake left 500,000 people straggling what they could from rubble.

ings collapsing, and is largely dependent on the local standards of construction and design.

The third term, specific value, is similar to a no-claims clause in a car insurance policy and represents a measure of how much risk we are prepared to assume.

In Britain the earthquake risk is small. Roger Musson, of the Seismology Unit at the BGS, says: "Earthquake risk in Britain is classified on the world scale as low to moderate. It's not severe, but it's not negligible."

Last April an earthquake measuring 5.1 — the largest this

century — hit Britain, centred at Clun, near Bishop's Castle in Shropshire. Damage was slight. Earthquakes are not uncommon in Britain and sizeable quakes were recorded in Shropshire in 1932, near Ludlow in 1926 and near Hereford in 1896 and 1924.

In Perthshire, Scotland, the little town of Comrie was shaken so often by earthquakes between 1790 and 1805 and again between 1839 and 1846, that the quakes were referred to as swarms, rather than single events.

There are no earthquake building regulations for ordinary dwellings in Britain because building codes assume low vulnerability. But considering that an average of ten buildings in London collapse every year without the help of earthquakes, even a very small tremor could be damaging.

Most earthquakes are associated with movements at the boundaries of the tectonic plates which cover the Earth. But some, such as those in Britain, do occur in the middle of a plate.

The idea of plate tectonics, now more than 25 years old, provides

an explanation for many of the features of the Earth's surface from mountain belts to ocean depths. Simply stated, the theory describes the surface of the Earth as being made up of a number of rigid plates, which slide around and are deformed mainly at their edges.

The areas where plates come together are known as plate boundaries, and in geological terms these are where the action is. As a rule of thumb, wherever two plates meet, the Earth is bound to shake. The question is not so much where — as when.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Norconsult

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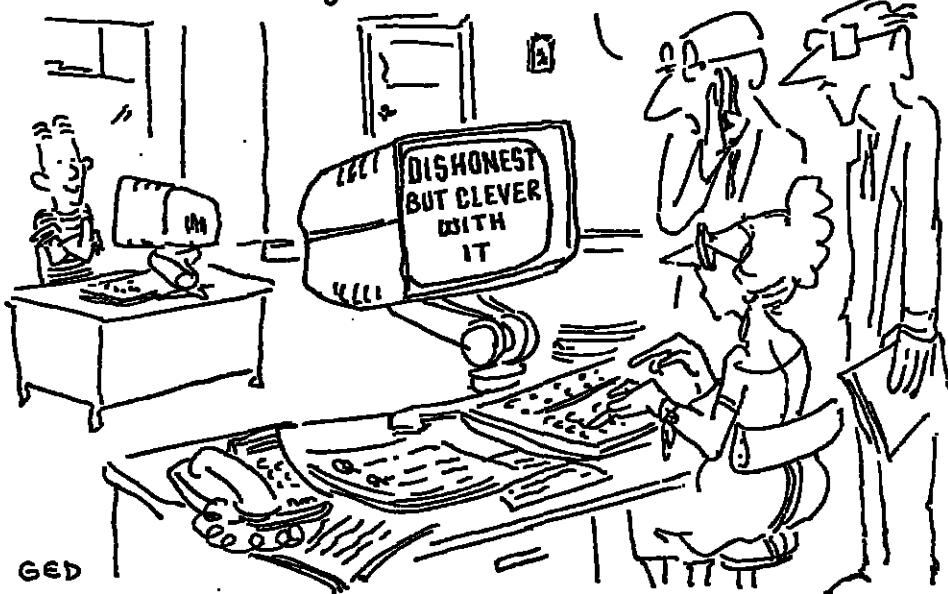
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Some companies are using secret psychological tests on job applicants, Leslie Tilley reports

## Would you pass the prison test?

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Candidates for scientific and technical jobs are increasingly being given psychological tests before being hired. However, some senior industry figures are calling for standards to govern their use or rejecting them altogether. Companies use psychometric tests as a means of introducing objectivity into their recruitment procedures and as a way of overcoming the limitations of the interview which has been criticised when used in isolation. Such tests are often employed when large numbers of candidates are being evaluated at the same time, for example during the milk round. They are also used in some cases when employees are being considered for internal promotion.

A survey by the Institute of Manpower Studies indicated that 42 per cent of companies responding used cognitive tests for scientific and technical staff and 27 per cent used personality tests for the same type of job.

Cognitive tests assess a range of abilities including intellectual, spatial, clerical and motor. Personality tests attempt to reveal information about traits such as values, perceptions, attitudes, pre-conceptions, prejudices and sociability.

However, some businesses are having second thoughts about using such tests. Employers say that universities are increasingly preparing students for the milk round by giving them dummy tests similar to those used by employers. In many cases employers use the same tests. "We do not use these tests as there are now too few tests being used by too many

employers," says Alan Havell, the graduate recruitment manager for the Oracle software firm. "Candidates' responses are no longer natural." The Graduates' Career Advisory Service confirms that it has commissioned its own test to help students get into the "right frame of mind," says Dr Brian Putt, who is the director

### JOBSCEENE

of the Central Services Unit. He says that specialists such as scientists and those applying for jobs where there are severe shortages, and hence fierce competition, find these tests irksome, particularly if all applicants are automati-

cally required to do them. "It is a bit like a sausage machine but it depends on the nature of the job. For example, few would object if the test was needed to identify a trait which a company considered essential," Dr Putt says. "It is difficult for students to come up with answers that are prepared," argues Rob

Jones, the manager of human resources development at ICL, which does use such tests for both internal and external appointments.

"If they do try to fix the answers, then it is in nobody's interest as they may be put into a job that is unsuitable for them. Psychometric tests are just one of the many different processes that recruits are exposed to. A decision is made on the totality of results, not just one on its own," he says.

Some firms are even using tests which purport to show whether a candidate has any latent criminal tendencies, an increasing worry for companies concerned at the rise in computer crime.

London-based Perm-etric says it has 300 companies using its psychometric tests. They were developed with the assistance of the prison services, according to Bruce Gifford, the managing director. Prisoners were tested and the results compared with those from non-criminals in an attempt to show up traits such as dishonesty.

"These tests are given to a job applicant as part of a battery of tests, as firms do not want staff to be aware of them in case they may fake the answers," Mr Gifford says. However, there is concern in some quarters that no statutory controls exist, and that standards should be formally introduced.

"Companies looking at such tests should be mindful of the scientific basis of that instrument. There are some extremely specious tests around and some of them leave something to be desired," Mr Jones says.

## Medical detectives crack coding of genetic disease

### British researchers use computer models to fight cystic fibrosis

protein of a whole series of tiny molecular defects previously linked to the disease. The model could also prove helpful in designing a drug that might overcome some of their deleterious effects.

Proteins are too small to see, even with the aid of the most powerful electron microscopes so, to find out what they look like and the key to understanding how they work, scientists generally resort to indirect methods, such as the painstaking analysis of X-rays reflected by protein crystals.

The snag is that most proteins are notoriously difficult to isolate, let alone crystallise. Computer models, although not nearly as reliable as X-ray pictures of the real thing, can provide researchers with at least a rough sketch.

With the cystic fibrosis protein, the sketch suggests how the protein might work in a healthy individual and how defects might stop it from working in a patient with cystic fibrosis. Details of the research, published in today's *Nature* magazine, exploit a breakthrough made last year when scientists at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and at Michigan University tracked down the cystic fibrosis gene.

Like any gene, it carries the

coded instructions needed for the body to produce a particular protein. Like all proteins, the one produced by the cystic fibrosis gene is made of amino-acid building blocks linked in a long chain.

By reading off the sequence in which different kinds of amino acids appear in the chain and comparing it with the sequences of other proteins, it was discovered that the cystic fibrosis protein shares features with a family of so-called transport proteins. These transporters, lodged in cell membranes, pump substances out of the cells. One is specially developed by some cancer cells to produce chemotherapy drugs which would otherwise destroy them and another is deployed by certain strains of the malarial parasite to eject chloroquine.

The researchers argue that the cystic fibrosis protein is a pump gone wrong. The protein contains what appears to be a small molecular motor fuelled by the chemical ATP. This motor probably drives the protein's machinery, allowing it to eject substances from the cell.

It is in precisely the region where ATP latches on to the motor, supplying it with energy, that the villain of the cystic fibrosis protein is to be found. In about 70 per cent of patients, the absence of one crucial amino acid in this region appears to cripple the protein's pump action.

ROSALIND COTTER

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on next page

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## FICTION

# Pen Aid against apartheid

**Victoria Glendinning** reviews work in progress by the choice and master writers of our generation on the divide between Them and Us

This is a rich mix, containing writing from or about Ghana, Somalia, China, Guyana, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan, France, Scotland, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, North America, and England. The 34 contributors have donated their work to express their opposition to apartheid, and the proceeds go to provide material assistance for the cultural work of the African National Congress. (There is a cloudiness about what is meant by this "cultural work". It would have been good to give some examples of it in the introduction. The phrase serves as an oblique assurance that the money will not go to buying guns.)

The editors of this collection of short stories, poems and extracts from novels in progress hope the book shows that "commitment to a cause, far from being inimical to individual creativity, can be a rich source of artistic inspiration". That is not in question, since if the talent is there, anything — an old boot, let alone a cause — can be a rich source of artistic inspiration. But all the commitment in the world cannot in itself make good art.

Literary judgments get fuddled by political or moral issues. As Orwell wrote in "Politics vs Literature", "one can perceive merit in a writer whom one deeply disagrees with, but enjoyment is a different matter".

Conversely, it is easy not only to enjoy a work, but to construct reasons for thinking it is good, simply because you agree with the values and attitudes behind it — as your reviewer, for example, agrees strongly with all and any opposition to apartheid. Lots of first-rate writing gets praised as third-class for non-literary reasons. So you have to watch it.



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Lewis Nkosi



Zoé Wicomb



Edward Upward

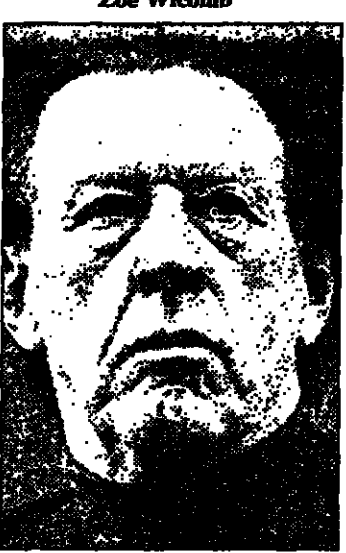
But the contributors here are first class. Thirty-four is far too many to list, but they include Brian Aldiss, Nuruddin Farah, Nadine Gordimer, Roy Heath, Naomi Mitchison, Margaret Atwood, Han Suyin, Christopher Hope, Mandla Langa, Ben Okri, Vikram Seth, Wole Soyinka, Marina Warner. There are some English curiosities: a murderous nightmare of a school-story by Edward Upward, Thirties guru of the left and the friend of Isherwood; and a chill university story about graffiti as the modern, unrecognised equivalent of "the wall" at Belshazzar's feast, by the late Raymond Williams.

No thematic directives were given to the contributors, and not all the pieces engage head-on with the outrages of apartheid in South Africa. (The story by Lewis Nkosi from which the title is taken is one that does.) But what emerges, from these contemporary stories and fragments from all over, is a recognition of man's nasty tendency to set up polarities of Them and Us, not only between black and white — though that is easiest, because visible. The elderly coloured woman, between two worlds in Zoé Wicomb's "Another Story", thinks that if she were in charge she'd have apartheid "to serve the decent and god-fearing" — except that it's so hard to tell the virtuous from the wicked.

Other apartheid explored in these stories are between employees and employers, children and parents, men and women. Sometimes they are horribly subtle; in James Kelman's "Lassies are



Joyce Carol Oates



Raymond Williams



Emily Prager

Trained That Way", a rough Scot rejected by a girl he chats up in a bar ruefully accepts that girls are trained not to talk to strange men — but then sees her perfectly happy to be picked up by a group of male students. Class and education, not sex, was the real barrier here.

Even a shared background conceals deep divisions. Two Pakistani families from Lahore, extravagantly delighted to meet one another in alien America in Bapsi Sidhwa's "Defend Yourself Against Me", find their fondly shared memories uncover, unearthing, the Muslim-Sikh atrocities that followed Partition. Breaking down barriers can frighten those on both sides. In Emily Prager's "The Laundry", the liberal South African housewife is the friend of her black maid — they dance together to disco music in the sitting-room — but

when her American daughter-in-law insists on doing her own laundry, both mistress and maid are paralysed with incredulous horror.

A star story is Joyce Carol Oates's "Black", about a well-meaning man going to dinner with his ex-wife and her new black lover — a stomach-churning study in embarrassment, the guest giving maximum offence in his alcoholic efforts to express his realisation that the black man is "just a human being like me". Orwell wrote that in so far as a writer is a propagandist, "the most that one can ask of him is that he shall genuinely believe in what he is saying, and that it shall not be something blazingly silly". Beyond that, he said, what is required is talent. The requirements are more than fulfilled in this impressive — and enjoyable — anthology.

## At the campfire of the vanities

AMERICA is itself the greatest poem, as Whitman long ago suggested, and contemporary American fiction is doused in its coarse and overwhelming textures. English fiction, with its pinched remove, can only look and yearn. Since Dreiser, much of this American fiction has been a kind of homage to contemporary bewilderment, and Peter Cameron's fine first novel, *Leap Year*, is well within the tradition.

It is a novel not just set in Manhattan, but living in it, like one of its own characters. All the randomness of urban life is here — health clubs, bars, sperm banks, day care centres — and Cameron's characters make their way through this world with a comic resignation, helped on by the author's choppy wit. (For instance, Lillian on a New Age fitness salon: "The class was very strange. It involved guttural chanting and a lot of sitting perfectly still but visualising yourself in hysterical motion.")

Cameron's point is connectedness. His novel (unlike the smoother passage of his short stories) bobs around from scene to scene with an episodic mania. But his characters are pulled together as the novel's net tightens. Lillian goes to a sperm bank because she wants a child but not a husband, and selects donation no. 72428 from the prospectus, on account of that number's desirable profile. Later in the novel we learn that no. 72428 is the donated sperm of one of her best friends, a gay photographer called Heath Jackson. It is like the fever that connects people in *Black House* — in the midst of material randomness, we are humanly joined in unpredictable ways. Cameron presents softish middle-class New York life, but puts a comic spin on it that is entirely distinctive. One hears Jane Bowles and Tom McGuane in his skin-tight prose.

Kathy Acker's *In Memoriam to Identity* has also submerged itself in urban tangle. But where Cameron's writing stays aloft, hers just drowns. She is a post-modernist writer, while Cameron is not, but in these confused days post-modernism is anything you want it to be. In the past, Acker's post-modernism has expressed it-

self not through verbal disruption (her prose is uninteresting) so much as through bizarre plots with strange alignments and blockages. Her latest fiction is her usual beggar's banquet of sex and crack-up.

It is focused around the early years of Arthur Rimbaud (with strange anachronistic references to Aids and the Nazis). One treasure is her translation of Rimbaud. Where the poet has "I wrote of silences of nights", Acker translates: "I wrote silences, nights, my despair at not seeing you and being in a crummy hotel next to you." Along with this there are two contemporary narratives (a woman who is raped and becomes a stripper, and a violent performance artist).

This is actually more fun than it sounds. But whether it amounts to the "in memoriam" that Acker seems so devoutly to believe in (the individual broken up by the fragmentation of modernity) is another question. The spiky writing does not break up identity, so much as draw attention to identity's literary construct.

edness when written about. So this is just one of the sacred cows of post-modern fiction given another milking; it's nothing new. Acker may think she has finally delivered the last rites over what Lawrence called "the old stable ego", but this ragged book looks more like a temporary tranquilliser.

Moving from Kathy Acker to Penelope Bennett's very English collection of stories, *An Endangered Happiness*, is like going from Times Square to an English country garden. But here, too, there are weeds and menacing roots just under Bennett's peaceful soil. In the title story, for instance, Constance, a sculptor, is bullied and hemmed in by a neighbour, Joy Perkins. It is a delicate study of identities at war. Mrs Perkins, in her frozen pose, is quite as chilling as any of Kathy Acker's characters. There is a placidity about Bennett's writing which at times inclines to blandness; more often, it hints at concealment, at a velvety acuteness. The English garden may not be the greatest poem, but it has some fictional life in it yet, it seems.

James Wood

LEAP YEAR

By Peter Cameron

Hamish Hamilton, £13.99

IN MEMORIAM TO IDENTITY

By Kathy Acker

Fandora, £12.95

AN ENDANGERED HAPPINESS

By Penelope Bennett

Hamish Hamilton, £12.99

## Parts other writers cannot reach

Byron Rogers

ALBERT RIDES AGAIN

By Jack Trevor Story

Allison &amp; Busby, £12.99

rushing from room to room, tumbled to the walls, to keep track of what is going on.

It begins with a plot, set in the familiar Trevor Story country of hire purchase and adultery in vans in hitching lay-bys, but then there are other plots, enough for ten books — only, as you are bounding along one of these, it suddenly

peters out. You find yourself dressed only in a shirt, staring around you in a crowded street, for there are many characters too.

A woman with no teeth who runs a tally shop and, it turns out, the IRA. A USAF colonel who appears to be planning the Great Train Robbery. Only the Queen of England is missing, and she is promised for the next book: she blows up the Channel tunnel. But who is this climbing in, "artistic and bearded and with interesting poached eggs under his eyes"?

It is, of course, the author himself. Mr Trevor Story actually appears as two characters, one of

whom gets kidnapped by Jehovah's Witnesses, is tied up naked on a bed, and has fish paste put on him, followed by a hungry cat. The author's real-life wives and children also have walk-on parts.

And there are characters from his earlier books, like Albert Argyle, though off-stage and dead here, having been caught short in the woods, where, practising his pheasant call as he squats, he is fatally mistaken by a hunter. They don't write books like this anymore, if they ever did.

But what are you to make of a villain who, shot dead, subsequently turns up? "Marchmont

saw the shaven-headed man six or seven times in his lifetime, sometimes walking, sometimes serving in street markets, sometimes driving a bus. On the bad days he wore a wig." And of other villains identified only as Alfie Bass, Victor Maddern, Harry Towh, film heavies out of all our pasts? Alas, that is the moment you throw this book.

Only you always retrieve it because of the strange voice you will not hear anywhere else. An outrageous voice. "Laboriously a man climbed over the woman and reached for his truss." A voice that can stop you in your tracks.

"Kathleen Finbow lived in a brothel. Most people do to a greater or lesser extent."

It speaks over the ruin of plots and the extinction of characters. "Hospitals becoming boring unless the loved one is dying..." "You could not help but return Marchmont's smile, which was instantly trusting and vulnerable and sad. It contained the tears of rejection..." "That is what cancer is; everybody on the ship reads away from day calendars..."

It is the voice of a man who hears a different drummer, and I could listen to it all day, for all Trevor Story's books are about himself in the end. I wish the man well who is writing his biography. That will be like trying to establish footpath rights on the M1.

## Saturday Review

### Murder as a French art

In the backwoods of France, a boy's death seems to bring the family curse of Greek tragedy. Peter Ackroyd reviews the story of a ghastly crime

## From Russia with hate

THRILLERS

Chris Petit

MOSCOW MAGICIAN

By John Moody

Gollancz, £13.95

IN A claustrophobic tour de force two men smuggle themselves out of Moscow in a coffin, thereby setting a price on freedom that few would be prepared to pay. In the box, an odd couple of Soviet low life, the Walter Matthau and Jack Leron of the Russian black market and Jewish dissidence; in pursuit, an old KGB hardliner with no time for perestroika, and more in sympathy with former American adversaries keen to preserve the status quo, a type fast becoming a standard of post cold war thrillers. *Moscow Magician* is distinguished, however, by its lack of stereotype, by its feeling for ordinary lives lived in the cracks of the Eastern bloc, by its guided tours of the bits of Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia that tourists don't see, and by its sympathy for the indomitable spirit of Russian opposition forced underground. As such, serious entertainment, and alpha minus.

Keith Peterson's *The Scattered Man* (Hodder & Stoughton, £13.95) is exemplary of its kind: a thriller that crosses over into the horror territory of Stephen King. A worldly young journalist dreams up a ghost story to impress the new woman in his life, only for her to freak out and announce that the scattered man of his tale has been stalking her nightmares — who? who? who? — an ante immediately upped when both find that the bogeyman is all too real, and the chase is on. Peterson has a way with sceptical characters forced to confront the lost child in themselves, a way, too, of making his characters sound real — droll American dialogue a speciality — and it is they rather than plot that turn the clever but unexceptional into a story gobbled in one uneasy sitting. A high scare rate on this particular switchback ride, and uneasy dreams to follow, hence alpha minus.

● The Last Candidate by Mike Phillips (Michael Joseph, £12.99) lifts the lid off local government: a

rising black political is knifed dead, and an old childhood friend, now a journalist, refuses to accept the police's easy solution to the case. Phillips takes a wry look at alternative London — great names like Spid Tarrant, Vishay Prasad, and Kevin Sparks — and the strange alliances and hostilities of a multi-ethnic society. The cynical conclusion is that our taxes subsidise widespread graft and corruption, and the reason why so little movement is possible in a moribund society is because those at the top of even the smallest heap have their hands thrust so deep in someone else's pockets. England's ingrained racism is the serious theme of an otherwise light entertainment, albeit illuminating on the conventionally unthrilling subject of council politics. *Beta plus* (plus).

● Loyalties by Gavin Esler (Headline, £12.95), as one might expect from a prominent television correspondent, is much taken with issues. Compromised news journalist — the new hollow man — working for a down-market satellite company is offered an exclusive interview with top IRA strategist. But he is assigned a camera crew more SAS than ACTT, led by a routine action man whose brief is to rescue a kidnapped explosives expert giving seminars in bomb-making to the IRA. Characters illustrate moral dilemmas, from forced collaboration to the abortion contemplated by the journo's wife. Her jaundiced assessment of husband's professional and domestic cop-outs is triveller in argument than the main terrorism plot, which in turn lacks lustre compared with the taut set-pieces of

the kidnap subplot. *Beta plus* ? plus.

● Craig Thomas writes fat airport thrillers with names like *The Last Raven* (Collins, £13.95), superficially indistinguishable from the rest, in fact rather better than most. There is the usual multi-national plot, involving a grey British eminence trying to work out why the CIA and KGB should combine forces to shoot down a plane carrying the general secretary's wife, and the usual family tie-ins — a niece jeopardised by the subplot — that make such stories costly familiar. So far, so formulaic, and Thomas, knowing on which side his bread is buttered, is willing to oblige. But out on the edges of his story there are signs of real engagement, most evident in his treatment of a field agent at the end of his tether, caught up in a Buchananesque manhunt, which suggests that inside all that research a sleek, classic thriller — 180 pages max — is struggling to get out. *Beta plus* ? plus.

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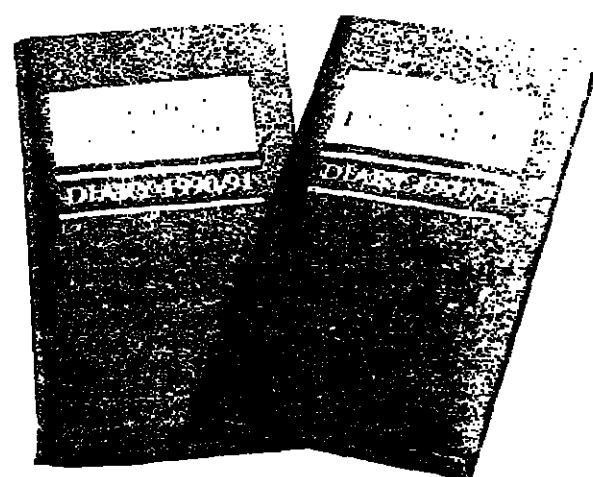
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# Bossa man is no fragile reed

**He was unhappy when news of**



the word 'cancer', they're ready to lay down and die. I'm a fighter. I'm a stubborn Russian Jew, and that's the worst kind in the world."

## Detecting some small increases in interest

**SHERIDAN MORLEY**

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**ANYTHING ELSE IS A COMPROMISE**

# At long last, entertainment

**Diane Hill reports from a French theatre festival which this year exhibits a lighter and more populist approach**

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## Doctor's diagnosis

## No Frankfurters

**A**lthough it does not announce its plans until next week, one thing is already certain about the Covent Garden Festival, which will run from September 12 to 22. The new venture, headed by Lord Gower, will not enjoy the scoop it had hoped for, of introducing William Forsyth's widely acclaimed Frankfurt Ballet to London. Although Forsyth is keen for his work to be seen in Britain, he had doubts about the advisability of a London debut at such a late stage in a temporary theatre in Covent Garden market. It is likely that his company's British debut will take place next spring in Leicester as part of that city's second international dance festival.

## Almost non-stop

**S**ome of the world's top concert organists congregate in All Saints Church, Kingston-upon-Thames, over the next three days for a 50-hour "organ marathon." From 7am to 1am today, tomorrow and Saturday, the church will resound to non-stop organ music, culminating on Saturday night in performances by the American organist-entertainer Carlo Curley and the Messiaen

The project is intended to pay off remaining debts on the organ itself: it was commissioned three years ago by Kingston Parish Church, from the Danish organ-builder Erik Frobenius, at a cost of £250,000. Over £200,000 has already been raised. "At the last count, 23 organists are performing," says Andrew Watson, the organiser. "I guarantee a good mixture - everything from Bach to light music."

## Not following on?

**W**hat is said to be the costliest film ever produced makes its debut in British cinemas tomorrow. But even the \$70 million (£39.1 million) price-tag on *Total Recall* (reviewed opposite) will be left far

... ..

Most speculation, however, surrounds *Batman II*, which has hit a "script deadlock" that may disguise other problems. Chief among them, perhaps, is the movie's skyrocketing budget—expected to top \$100 million (\$55.9 million) of which \$40 million (\$23.3 million) is reported to be Jack Nicholson's fee for playing the Joker. This summer's box-office is down on last summer's, but immense marketing operation has put *Batman II* into *Crash* has not yet borne the expected fruit and sources are wary of original Warner Bros. may be having second thoughts.

## Piano nobile

**W**hile a partially demolished Battipaglia Power Station moldering into a stately ruin, the Italians seem to have a lot more ideas of what to do with their redundant industrial monuments. Kicked on the heels of Fiat's announcement of their plans to make over the Turin Lingotto factory (the one with the car-shaped roof), the

carved test-track on the roof into

## Renzo Piano: Needed here?

another brilliant idea from the fertile brain of the architect Renzo Piano. This time it is the old Milan factory of Aisaldo, the armaments firm. Alongside the first show on site (about Milan car design) are Piano's plans and feasibility studies for making it into a permanent design museum, within a building which is itself a design classic. The Comune di Milano owns the site, and is willing to finance the project. Could they be persuaded to take over Battensea?

## Moving poem

**A**fter its heat-inducing appearance on television last year, Tony Harrison's poem "V" is now taking to the stage. A diatribe against decay in present-day Britain (or "a torrent of four-letter blith" according to the *Daily Mail*), Harrison's poem will be performed by four members of the Volcano Theatre Company as part of the Edinburgh Festival. Sparked by the sight of graffiti scrawled on a family tombstone, Harrison's poem launches into a post-mortem on a nation obsessed with "us" and "them". After its Edinburgh premiere, the stage version will transfer to Watermans Arts Centre in Brentford, west London.

**BRIITTE ENGUERAND**

**Daniel Auteuil as Scarpin**

The early Eighties with *La Dernière Fimale de Waterclash*. Its heavy rock mood, music, and chamber orchestra of disembowelled combustion engines reached new decibel records and its unbridled use of fire, water and explosives seemed to place the onlookers at the heart of their lives.

The company's participation in the official 1990a programme was the sign of its growing autonomy, sacrificing its original, large-scale, wondrous its eccentric image. The trains behind Royal de Luxe is the soberly dressed Jean Luc Courcelot, who, with the help of a permanent company of around 20 performers/mechanics, invents a world that takes reality beyond the realms of fiction.

*La Veritable Histoire de France* is a giant pop-up book. Each of its 2 pages (seven by four metres and weighing over a quarter of a ton) recounts a piece of French history. As each page is turned, a castle is stormed, Moscow is burned, a believer tortured and the trenches filled with dead. It is a disturbing, devastating picture of history, brought to life by Courcoult's splendid imagination, that invents simulations of mechanical devices.

visual gags and an audio backdrop of monumental dimensions. A giant fork delivers a barrage of old

boes, a hot-air balloon swells between the pages and is let loose to the skies. Sheep nod flames

ick, bombs explode, hybrid vehicles rush by, until the senses become saturated. The Avignon

festival will never be quite the same.

[illegible]



## ARTS

## CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

## Woody's world of the human comedy

David Robinson reviews *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *Gremlins 2*, *Total Recall*, *Black Rainbow*, *Babar The Movie* and *The Boost*

Woody Allen's films alternate between the comic, in which he himself stars, and the serious and even solemn, in which he does not. *Crimes and Misdemeanors* (15, Odeon Haymarket) successfully combines both styles, in telling the parallel but separate stories of two men in Allen's usual middle-class Jewish Manhattan.

Allen plays an unsuccessful director of low-budget but high-minded documentaries. He is married to a frigid wife with whom he has not slept since Hitler's birthday last year. He envies and despises his brother-in-law (Alan Alda), a millionaire media trendy, who even carries off the woman who might have offered the documentary-maker a consoling love affair (Mia Farrow).

At the same time, we follow the story of an ophthalmic surgeon (Martin Landau) whose life is all glittering success: the film opens with a testimonial dinner in his honour. But to secure his honour and high reputation against a threat of exposure, he becomes party to a murder.

The deed is followed by terrible remorse. However, to his great surprise, instead of the divine retribution his sound religious education led him to expect, he finds that his success multiplies and, what is worse, the sense of guilt itself fades away with time.

The two men encounter quite casually at a wedding, and reflect together on a universe in which logic and justice have no place, where our lives depend upon our individual decisions and our will to survive. Allen is the only director who would actually articulate the moral of his story, which is spoken over the close of the film by Martin Bergmann in the character of an old emigre philosopher, the subject of the documentary director's unfinished film.

Because Allen's films have so often ridiculed pretension, particularly in other cineastes, critics tend to get embarrassed by Allen's own audacity in tackling the Great Themes. The ambition of this film is indicated by the title, with its

variant upon Dostoevsky. Allen is the only American film artist who boldly attempts to portray the human comedy, to explore the relationship of man to his universe. He does it by focusing on a clearly defined ethnic group which he knows from the inside, and which he portrays with an equal mixture of love, ridicule and guilt.

Allen's loyal band of collaborators grows. Sven Nykvist, long the cinematographer of Allen's idol Ingmar Bergman, provides the now recognisable Allen look, favouring soft, golden shades. Actors flower in Allen scripts: Sam Waterston and Mia Farrow are regulars; Landau, Alda, Anjelica Huston, Claire Bloom, Jerry Orbach make their Allen debuts.

*Gremlins 2: The New Batch* (12, Cannons Haymarket, Oxford Street) is a rarity: a sequel (again directed by Joe Dante) better than the original. The new writer, Charlie Haas, who has replaced Chris Columbus, the *Gremlins* inventor, has superimposed on the monster genre a nice line in satirical comedy about contemporary New York life.

The *Gremlins*' main target this time is a new high-tech office building created by a developer tycoon startlingly like Donald Trump (he falls for a siren called Maria). Who can resist the spectacle of monsters diligently wrecking a palace-prison of glass and steel, where employees are watched by video-eyes and unhealthy incalculables such as potted plants are forbidden by edict?

The best joke is that the *Gremlins* themselves — the master of special effects, Rick Baker has characterised a wonderful variety of diabolical characters — are eager to adopt the style of New Yorkers once they have taken control. Their spokesman, who has swallowed a bottle of brain hormone and become a Gotham intellectual, goes on television to explain their yearning for civilisation.

The film is full of background gags, like the snappy talking lift and automated doors that are always hurting unsuspecting pedestrians to the floor. There are lots of movie gags too. The tycoon's cable television promises *Casa-*

*blanca* "in colour and with a happier ending". The whole film is presented within Looneytoon titles in which Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Porky Pig fight for main credit; the best moment comes when the *Gremlins* invade the theatre and burn the film as we watch it.

At something near \$70 million (£39.1m), *Total Recall* (18, Odeon West End, Marble Arch) may well be the costliest film production ever. Two months after its release, with gross receipts well over \$100m (£55.9m), there is no need to be sorry for anyone.

The cost is visible on screen, with vast, astounding and genuinely inventive sets representing colonised Mars in the year 2084, and an elaborate, if fairly repellent race of mutants.

The box-office appeal may well be due less to the spectacle, however, than to the skill with which the screenplay (by Ronald Shusett, Dan O'Bannon and Gary Goldman) exploits every current paranoia. Mars a century ahead realises all today's worst fears: violence, terrorism, corruption, pollution and ecological collapse.

The story is of near impenetrable complexity. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a terrestrial construction worker who resorts to a mind travel agency where exotic dream-memories are implanted in the brain. After the operation goes wrong, neither he nor we are ever sure if he is the worker or a secret agent; whether he is an agent, a double agent or a triple agent; or indeed which of his many *doppelgänger* manifestations is the real character.

Grown-ups certainly cannot figure it all out. The puzzle as so often is whether the teen audience, conditioned by computer games, is actually able to follow the labyrinthine twists; or whether it does not really care so long as the violence is non-stop, with minute-by-minute cracking of necks and blasting of heads. The director, Paul Verhoeven, who made his name with some very offbeat films, obliges energetically. The

Agent, double agent or triple agent? Arnold Schwarzenegger changes his image during *Total Recall*

film's visual invention is offset by its visceral nastiness. Schwarzenegger's self-deprecatory good humour prevails none the less.

In *Black Rainbow* (15, Curzon West End), Mike Hodges, as writer-director, turns a slight supernatural anecdote into an atmospheric ghost story. Rosanna Arquette (who grows ever more like a triplet to Isabella Rossellini and Nastassja Kinski) tours rundown industrial townships on the bible belt with her father (Jason Robards), bringing messages from the dear departed. Things start to

go awry when she starts to predict the deaths of the still-living.

The aforementioned Bugs Bunny has just celebrated his fiftieth birthday. *Babar the Elephant*, created by Jean de Brunhoff and kept alive by his son Laurent, is nearing 60. *Babar the Movie* (U, Cannons Tottenham Court Road, Pantons Street) is very loyal to the spirit and elegant minimalist graphic style of the original. The appeal of the story is strictly for the youngest audience; though it is nice to know that the film is helping to raise money to save real-life elephants.

The *Boost* (18, Cannons Oxford Street, Pantons Street) is a timely cautionary tale for Hollywood, with James Woods as a young go-getter who gets caught up in the fast life of the West Coast; and gets hooked on cocaine when the bubble of quick riches bursts. There is no doubting the sincerity of the film-makers — director Harold Becker — or the diligence of the actors: Woods' loving, suffering wife is played by Sean Young. The story and sentiments, though, have too much the style of Victorian tracts such as *The Bottle or The Road to Ruin*.

## CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

**CHICAGO JOE AND THE SHOWGIRL** (Palace, 18). Talent goes to waste in this botched exhumation of a murderous wartime crime spree, with Emily Lloyd as the Hammett-style girl egghead on an American deserter (Kiefer Sutherland) to a life of amorality. Director, Bernard Rose. 1990.

**DOCTOR WHO (BBC)**: Two feature-length television episodes from the 1980s — *The Five Doctors* (U), the celebrated jamboree collecting together various Dr Who impersonators (except the first, William Hartnell), and *The Brain of Morbius* (PG), with Tom Baker venturing forth onto the planet Karn.

**GLEAMING THE CUBE** (MGM/UA, PG): A Californian skateboard freak tries to solve the death of his adopted Vietnamese brother. Absurd thriller, dragged down by Christian Slater's tiresome nasal whine, but boosted slightly by skateboarding thrills and spills. 1989.

**GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!** (Virgin, 15): Energetic but superficial account of the early years of legendary rock 'n' roller Jerry Lee Lewis. Exuberant star performance from Dennis Quaid; directed by Jim McBride. 1989.

**HENRY V** (20th Vision, PG): Visually drab, war-torn version from wunderkind Kenneth Branagh, who directs and stars, scoring a bull's eye in neither field. Some solid acting elsewhere (Judi Dench especially), but the film fails to ignite the emotions. 1989.

**LOCK UP** (Guild, 18): Factory-belt prison drama, with Sylvester Stallone trying to soft-pedal the brutality as a model inmate faced with a vengeful warden (Donald Sutherland). John Flynn's taut direction gives a helping hand to the slack script. 1990.

**THE LONG GRAY LINE** (RCA/Columbia, U): John Ford in long-winded, sentimental, heavily Irish mood, celebrating the life of a West Point athletics trainer (Tyronne Power). By no means a great film, but an interesting Hollywood artefact. 1955.

**THE SEA WOLF** (Warner, PG): Dark, compelling treatment of Jack London's novel, with Edward G. Robinson as the psychopathic ship's captain making life miserable for Alexander Knox, John Garfield and Ida Lupino. Handsomely directed by Michael Curtiz. 1941.

**SOME LIKE IT HOT** (Warner, U): A slender story — two musicians in drag, fleeing gangsters — delightfully decorated by Billy Wilder, with just a few overwrought moments. Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis provide outrageous comedy, but Monroe gives the film its heart. 1959.

**THE SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS** (Warner, U): The story of Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight — a curious project for the acerbic Billy Wilder — though James Stewart's performance, the impeccable production values, and Franz Waxman's soaring music all keep the film airborne. 1957.

GEOFF BROWN

## CINEMA: SCRIPT SEMINAR

## Holy writ from the movie Moses

Michael Gray attends screenwriter Robert McKee's three-day Story Structure Course in London

At One: Central London, a June Saturday, 8.55am. One hundred individuals converge on Regent Street with a common, bizarre desire: to learn to write hit screenplays. They split off buses; they fight out of Piccadilly and Green Park tube-stations; they hunt the back alleys of Savile Row for parking-spaces in their race against time.

In the next five minutes they must reach the steps of the Chemistry Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, and register for the Robert McKee Story Structure Course — an intensive three days, costing £300.

What Lone, Haunted Artists and Their Pain gather here: 70 per cent of these people still smoke cigarettes! "I hear Paramount sends everyone on this..." "Who is McKee?" "He does this world-wide..." "Isn't that Susannah York?" "He wrote for tv..." "That's Nigel Planer: I wonder why he's here."

A clock strikes. A bell rings. Students drop cigarette-ends into coffee-dregs and surge forward into the dark lecture hall.

On-stage, a back-drop of hi-tech blackboards. A lecturer squats at each side, festooned with microphones. Spotlights pick out a square module lying on the floor. From it, 20 feet of this microphone cable swoops up to the collar of a tall, well-built, silver-haired American guru. He paces the stage. He pours himself a slug of coffee. Robert McKee is ready.

His rich voice asserts itself at once. Scattering four-letter words — this is public-speaking for the 1990s: a lecture, but a hip one — McKee gives back-story exposition: how he comes from off-Broadway to Hollywood, finds work reading scripts for United Artists... and discovers that no one knows how to tell a story anymore.

"So, ladies and gentlemen,

here's how. Literary talent is not enough. Who are these characters? What do they want? The industry sits on the foundation of writing. For those who can write brilliant stories, it's a seller's market. You too can live in Beverly Hills."

He argues that stripped down, *Out of Africa*, *A Fish Called Wanda*, and *Terminator* share the same story-form people have bought since time began. "People go to movies for meaningful emotional experience — the very thing they cannot get from life."

Pens raced to get it down. It is clipped, confident, coherent; pouring out tough common-sense with a new, shining clarity. Structure, scenes, sequences are defined, and this is just the introduction. McKee ends dead on 10.45, without even glancing at the clock.

The students queue for coffee, chat, smoke. This goes on all day: insight mixed with breaks. By the end (7pm sharp) they have learnt setting and genre; the controlling idea; the protagonist; levels of conflict; the inciting incident. The terms read out. McKee is a star.

Act Two: Same place, Sunday mid-morning. McKee is back in action — but the atmosphere is turning. It's tense now. Sections of the crowd grow restive. The pop-psychology and gung-ho Americana start grating. The Euripides-Schwarzenegger mix seems glib. Cine-modernists resent the John Wayne sub-text. For feminist career-women, McKee transmutes fast into the bad guy. Under the lights, as in life, common-sense starts sounding less like truth than just another right-wing view.

Treating questions as heckles, he puts them down. He will only take clarification, not challenge. A large minority of his audience reaches boiling point. They start to shout, mock, tease. "You're making me defensive, and I don't like that!" McKee shouts back. Losing

his cool, will he lose all he has striven to build? Today it's McKee who needs the lunch-break.

Act Three: Afternoon. By effort of will and force of material, McKee re-asserts his charismatic authority. The crowd's sense of fair play works in his favour, as does another common-sense view: politico-cultural debate wastes time and money. McKee's trump card — the very thing people resent — is overbearing definiteness. It is clear what there is to agree or disagree with. The afternoon passes.

Same place, final day. Have the students and McKee bonded through common travail into the Four Great Principles of Composition and Pace, Set-Ups, Pay-Offs and Image-Systems? They head for the Climactic Action: the famous McKee analysis of the classic movie: *Casablanca*.

The lights dim and the screen flickers. A surprise! A short: a

*Casablanca*, the classic film analysed by Robert McKee

silent-movie Moses on the Mount receives the tablets of stone, while a voice-over declaims McKee's Ten Commandments of Screenwriting. This is comic relief for tempo's sake: the lull before the climax.

But, the sub-text is many a true word spoken in jest: McKee is the white-haired patriarch brandishing prescriptive principles. He plays Moses ("I put back into currency what was once common knowledge... under the old studio system") but he may as well be Jehovah: distil and they're the same character.

Roll *Casablanca*... roll scene-by-scene analysis. This is indeed Hollywood at its most beguiling. Everything in this 50-year-old classic illuminates 50-year-old McKee's thesis.

His post-climax resolution? That this is the world's best-loved movie because its message promises that "in the fundamental human dilemma of love versus duty, you can have both". Bogart affirms his love for Bergman by putting her on the plane and walking away alongside Claude Rains, the noble political realist.

But this is a false ending — and McKee now stands revealed as a Bogie fantasist: the all-American loner always putting Bergman on the plane because sacrificing love is easier than sustaining a relationship. In an inspired final twist, McKee, seeking to stress his message by quoting "As Time Goes By", sings the lines...

A revelatory moment, making sense of all that has gone before. Unlike those who see *The Sound of Music* 200 times, here is a man carving a career out of obsessively re-viewing *Casablanca*. Shyly, he stops singing. The audience appreciates the pathos: they cannot but admire the fanaticism behind the actor behind the guru. Sustained applause. McKee bows. The End.

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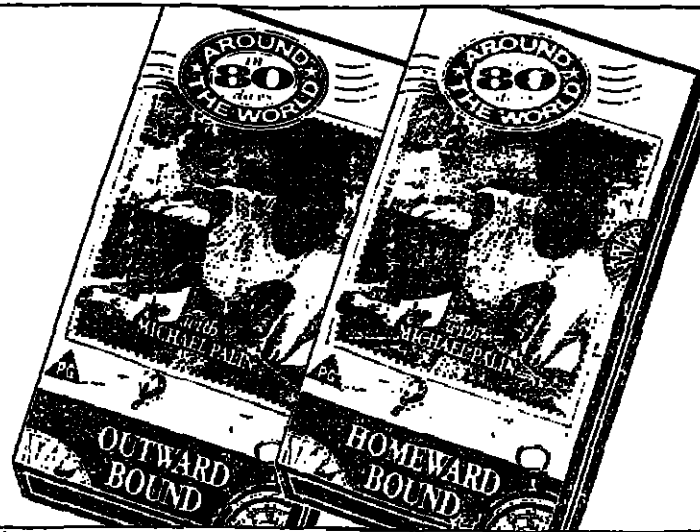
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## REVIEWS

## Sympathy in a family affair

## THEATRE

The Three Sisters  
Royal Court

GREAT-UNCLE Conchubor does not appear, nor do cousins Finnoola or Foorawn; but a fair quota of that distinguished Irish acting clan, the Cusacks, is happily on display on the Court stage. Sinead, Sorcha and Niamh, Cyril's daughters, are Chekhov's three sisters; and their father plays Chekhovkin, one of those doctors who stumble through the master's work, exuding alcohol fumes and ennui.

Actually, the Cusack family may parallel Chekhov's characters even more closely than is obvious. It has been repeatedly argued that Chekhovkin, who is abjectly devoted to their mother's memory, may actually be father to one of the girls. That is not, however, apparent from Cyril's wonderfully idiosyncratic performance. When he is not in his cups, bleating and helplessly barking out self-accusations, he exudes a beatific bonhomie, not aimed at anyone in particular. He seems too vague to remember if he is anyone's father.

But what of those at the emotional core of Adrian Noble's sensitive production, the Cusack girls? Family resemblance is an advantage, but hardly crucial. Sisterly rapport counts for more, and there, too, the Cusacks have



Masha (Sinead Cusack, left), Irina (Niamh Cusack) and Olga (Sorcha Cusack) in *The Three Sisters*

their mothers. The evening begins with them clustered together in the intimacy of hope, and ends, movingly, with them similarly entwined in the intimacy of loss.

Of course, such moments matter less than the strong individual performances that could, I suppose, come from women respectively born in Cork, Chad and the Andromeda galaxy. Yet all three discover effective ways of expressing frustration at small-town mediocrity. Sorcha finds an understated blend of longing, defeat and stoicism inside Olga's schoolmarmish exterior. Niamh seems jumpy, touchier than the sweet ingénue Irina usually is; and

passes through violent mood-swings before ending up scrubbed, bespectacled, wifely plain: an example of renunciation in action.

Sinead's Masha moves from world-weariness to an irresistible restlessness to near-speechless distraction as she finds and then loses love in the form of Nicky Henson's gruff, bluff but imaginative Vershinin. This is a boldly unsentimental performance, derived as much from anger as romantic yearning. There is pain here, yes; but also darker, harsher, more dangerous feelings, and surprisingly plausible they prove.

An interesting effect is to make her persecutors, husband and

sister-in-law, more sympathetic. Indeed, Lesley Manville's Natasha, while still the shrill and vulgar bourgeoisie, seems very much the victim of family snobishness and rejection. It is, for once, not just selfishness that impels her into erotic adventures outside. And that insight is characteristic of Noble's revival, which can be slow and dreamy and venture perilously near the kind of glum English production that went out of fashion years ago, yet is packed with thoughtful, delicate, quietly feeling moments. It is strongly recommended.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## THEATRE

The Fantasticks  
Regent's Park

THE most fantastic thing about Tom Jones and Harvey Schmitt's free musical adaptation of Rosalind Wiseman's *Les Romanesques* is the story of its own success. First produced at a college summer school for a week, it was taken to the Sullivan Street Theatre, New York, by the producer Lorenzo Noto, nearly closed after nine weeks, and is still running, 30 years later. Some long-running shows seem to continue by sheer force of habit.

This one, though, has real virtues, even if only lightweight ones, of charm and wit, and they are beautifully realised in Ian Talbot's captivating and, at moments, poetic production. As if by sympathetic magic, the customary Regent's Park child, who threatened this paper's senior theatre critic

with frost-bite only recently, is replaced by something close to Central Park warmth.

The piece begins as an ironic reversal of *Romeo and Juliet*: two fathers who actually want their offspring to unite conspire to fake the parental opposition that they shrewdly believe will cement the match. The dramatic limitation is that the lovers are the merest ciphers, going through the romantic motions like puppets.

Emma Amos as 16-year-old Luisa ("I love to taste my tears. Don't let me be normal") looks like something on top of the Christmas tree that smiles and sings sweetly enough; Anthony Barclay is gauche and earnest as Matt ("I defy biology and achieve ignorance"), vaguely reminiscent of the young Woody Allen.

The fun is all on the fingers. Roy Hudd relishes the part of Matt's green-fingered father, Hucklebee ("I learnt horticulture in the navy"), and makes his garden shears click like castanets in an amusing duet with Bellomy (An-

thony O'Donnell), father of Luisa. The two fathers' master-stroke is the hiring of El Gallo, a kind of rent-a-villain, and two moth-eaten travelling players to stage an attempted abduction of Luisa that is designed to bolster Matt's prowess. Erick Ray Evans is slim and sardonic as Gallo, and Basil Hoskins and Mark Addy provide a well-oiled double act as the would-be Shakespearean, Henry, and his sidekick, Mortimer, improbably got up as a Red Indian.

In the second act, *Romeo and Juliet* gives way to *Faust* as the two lovers, disillusioned by the awareness that their romance has been staged for them, attempt to find real romance in the world outside. The music shifts effectively from sweetly lyrical operetta and blues, well rendered by Catherine Jarvis, Paul Farnsworth's Klee-like backdrops catch the mood of self-conscious artifice that suffices this delightful production.

HARRY EYRES



Roy Hudd as Hucklebee

## THEATRE

The Frogs  
Old Brentford Baths

WHATEVER the shortcomings of this show, which are several, its management team deserves a special category of award, perhaps the Crazy Application of Logic Prize, for setting Stephen Sondheim's musical version of Aristophanes in a public swimming bath.

Most of the cast start off or end up in the water, although the audience sits dry in the galleries. The small orchestra is also squeezed up there and plays pretty nicely in unusual conditions, al-

though the acoustics for the really loud number, the celebrated *Frog Chorus* ("Brekekekex-ko-ax"), are fearful. The musical has rarely been done, and Sondheim's music figures only rarely within it, where the Chorus in the original sang. Since these passages are restricted to the climaxes and the occasional change of scene, the musical contribution is thinly spread: four songs before the interval and two after.

The result is therefore very different from the earlier Sondheim foray into classical drama, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. In the Aristophanes, the witty god, Dionysos, goes down to Hades—crossing the frog-filled Styx—to find out a

good poet to sort out the problems of Athens. The Sondheim version faithfully follows this loose story, except that it is the theatre that is in trouble not Athens, and instead of a contest between craggy Aeschylus and slippery-tongued Euripides, what is offered (and the spirits sink) is Shakespeare v Shav.

Sondheim fans will find his most characteristic music in the *parabasis*, halfway through the show. And there is time—there's always time—Plenty of time—All the time in the world—the chorus quietly sings, spread around the pool and to a slow, wistful accompaniment of two bassoons.

The singing, quite honestly, is

nothing to write home about but John Gardyne's staging has its moments of endearingly quirky invention: the male-model Heracles leaning broken-hipped on his club, Charon's ferry hurtling into the water as though catapulted from a lifeboat station, and the sudden smothering of the pool's surface with a hundred frogs.

I think Sondheim missed a really good idea in this show: how much more fun to have a contest between, say, Verdi and Noel Coward, with all the artful musical parodies that might follow. Sadly, he remained faithful to the ancient Greek and the show, though bright in places, drags in many others.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

## GORBELLY

(a) A sticking-out stomach, a potbelly or beerbelly, presumably from gore a triangular piece of land + belly. (b) Falstaff, reproaching Londoners with their gorbellies, dear Old Satan rebuking his.

## DOURINE

(c) A contagious disease of horses transmitted by copulation, and caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma equiperdum*. "Mares are more liable to acute dourine than stallions."

## TALA

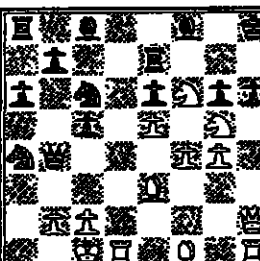
(a) A traditional and really quite irritating rhythmic pattern in Indian music, from the Hindi *tāl* hand-clapping. "While the musicians play the syllabic beats, the dancer executes patterns within the *tāl* or time-measure."

## RESTO

(b) Canadian informal slang and jargonese for a restaurant: "I came up short on menus specialising on mch, but in the Italian area I recalled La Transito. The bright and well-upholstered rest in lower Westmont has been receiving favorable marks for its ambience and menu." Remain me to give it a miss.

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is from the game Black (White) - Rossetto (Black), Argentina 1990. Can you find the winning move for White?

Solution to yesterday's position: 1. Nf3! 2. Qd1! 3. Qx2! 4. Qx2! 5. Qx2! 6. Qx2! 7. Qx2! 8. Qx2! 9. Qx2! 10. Qx2! 11. Qx2! 12. Qx2! 13. Qx2! 14. Qx2! 15. Qx2! 16. Qx2! 17. Qx2! 18. Qx2! 19. Qx2! 20. Qx2! 21. Qx2! 22. Qx2! 23. Qx2! 24. Qx2! 25. Qx2! 26. Qx2! 27. Qx2! 28. Qx2! 29. Qx2! 30. Qx2! 31. Qx2! 32. Qx2! 33. Qx2! 34. Qx2! 35. Qx2! 36. Qx2! 37. Qx2! 38. Qx2! 39. Qx2! 40. Qx2! 41. Qx2! 42. Qx2! 43. Qx2! 44. Qx2! 45. Qx2! 46. Qx2! 47. Qx2! 48. Qx2! 49. Qx2! 50. Qx2! 51. Qx2! 52. Qx2! 53. Qx2! 54. Qx2! 55. Qx2! 56. Qx2! 57. Qx2! 58. Qx2! 59. Qx2! 60. Qx2! 61. Qx2! 62. Qx2! 63. Qx2! 64. Qx2! 65. Qx2! 66. Qx2! 67. Qx2! 68. Qx2! 69. Qx2! 70. Qx2! 71. Qx2! 72. Qx2! 73. Qx2! 74. Qx2! 75. Qx2! 76. Qx2! 77. Qx2! 78. Qx2! 79. Qx2! 80. Qx2! 81. Qx2! 82. Qx2! 83. Qx2! 84. Qx2! 85. Qx2! 86. Qx2! 87. Qx2! 88. Qx2! 89. Qx2! 90. Qx2! 91. Qx2! 92. Qx2! 93. Qx2! 94. Qx2! 95. Qx2! 96. Qx2! 97. Qx2! 98. Qx2! 99. Qx2! 100. Qx2! 101. Qx2! 102. Qx2! 103. Qx2! 104. Qx2! 105. Qx2! 106. Qx2! 107. 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## BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando 8.55 Regional news and weather  
9.00 News and weather  
9.05 Belle and Sebastian (r) 9.25 Why Don't You...? (r)  
10.00 News and weather followed by The Jetsons 10.30 Playdays  
10.55 Five to Eleven. Anne Wynn-Wilson continues the story of the tapestry about Quaker belief and practice  
11.00 News and weather followed by Peaceable Kingdom. Drama series starring Lindsay Wagner as the director of the Los Angeles Zoo  
12.00 News and weather followed by The Garden Party. More reflections from the team on the 32 years of the Botanical Gardens. Has feminism affected the family? And is children's television coming up with the goods? 12.55 Regional news and weather  
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax)  
1.50 He Who Dares. The story of a man who was brainwashed for nine months (r) 2.20 Chris Serie's Summer Season (r) 2.30 Sailing the Winds of Paradise. The beautiful Kenwood Cup from Honolulu, with three British teams taking part (r)  
3.00 Cricket: First Test. Live coverage from Lord's of the opening day's play in the first Test between England and India

## BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: Introduction to Psychology. Lecture at 7.10  
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster  
9.00 Mastermind 1986 (r)  
9.30 My School. Cathy Burnett looks at the threat of closure facing small village schools (r)  
10.00 Look, Stranger. A profile of Clive Barker. Interview with Michael Murray 10.25 The Way I Went. Tom McDermott visits the rolling hills of Northern Ireland's County Tyrone (r)  
10.50 Cricket: First Test. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the opening session of the first Test at Lord's between England and India.  
1.05 Past and Present. Preserved. A visit to the open-air National Museum "Zurzermuseum" 1.20 Mr Bann (r)  
1.35 Cricket: First Test. Tony Lewis introduces further live coverage of today's play from Lord's. Includes News and weather at 2.00  
3.00 News and weather followed by Mr Speaker. Sir Viv Richards chats to Bernard Weatherill 3.50 News, regional news and weather  
4.00 Cricket: First Test. Further coverage from Lord's  
6.30 Royal Welsh Polo Classic. The frantic game of polo returns to Cardiff for the first time in 32 years. Today's match is between the Levetts team, which boasts Prince Abdullah of Malaysia as a player, and the Prince of Wales's team  
7.05 Oh, Sweet Mystery of Rock: Where Are You Hiding?  
The incomparable Ray Gossling puts on his backside as he turns his quizzical gaze to an event that might have been devised just for him, a convention of ageing rock'n'rollers at a Porth holiday camp in the west country. Like many other 16-year-olds in 1955, Gossling went to the pictures



Ray Gossling: a rockin' and a rollin' (7.05pm)



James Conroy, Susan Woodbridge (8.30pm)

The theme of *The Changing Step* is suggested by the title. The war has reversed roles. The soldiers have swapped their working-class tenements for the grandeur of a country estate and are being looked after by the local aristocracy, who have shed their titles to do their bit for their country. The point is elaborated in the hesitant love affair between a private who lost a leg in France and Lady Alice, the nurse who is assigned to look after him. Her's script divides the nation into short scenes which carry a complex weight of meaning and there are fine, understated performances from James Conroy and Susan Woodbridge as the soldier and the nurse. (Ceefax)  
11.00 Cagney and Lacey: Out of Control. What seems at first like a simple burglary and murder becomes complicated when it looks as if the victim died of self-inflicted wounds 11.50 Weather

- 8.00 The "Step" Maxwell Story. Joyful American comedy series starring Dabney Coleman as the eccentric sportswriter who conveniently forgets the truth in his search for a scoop. Wales 1990  
8.25 On the Line. Ray Stubbs and Sue Mont highlight the sporting issues of the week  
9.00 The Travel Show. With reports from the Mountains of Mourne and Lido de Jesolo on the Venetian Riviera  
9.30 Under the Sun: Dust and Ashes. The story of the latest gathering of people in the world, an event that takes place every year when millions of pilgrims flock to bathe in the holy river Ganges where it meets the river Jamuna (r). (Ceefax)  
10.20 10 x 10: Pase Adelante. In the last of the series of short films by first-time directors, Adrian Most, a student of Lamiya, takes his camera to Guatemala and presents a vivid kaleidoscope of land and people, town and country, society and modern. Presented without commentary, indeed without words from any source, the film is a visual essay in colour and movement. Most has a sharp eye for detail, a composition and telling detail. He graphically portrays the slaughtering of animals in the market, the brilliantly coloured clothes and the old, impassive faces. The only pity is that he cannot resist dressing up material that could perfectly stand by itself with tricks of lighting, camera angles and, most irritatingly, slow and speed-up motion.  
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman includes the first of two reports by Janet Trewin on vivisection  
11.15 Cricket: First Test. Highlights of the first day's play from Lord's between England and India  
11.55 Weather  
12.00 Open University: Weekend Outlook 12.05am All Down History. Ends 12.35

## ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am  
9.25 He-Man and the Masters of the Universe (r) 9.50 Thames News and weather 10.15 Vicky the Viking (r) 10.50 News headlines  
10.55 The Adventures of Black Beauty. Colourful tales based on the classic novel by Anna Sewell, starring Judy Bowler 11.25 Just for the Record. Includes him of what is claimed to be the world's most spectacular helicopter ride 11.50 Thames News and weather 11.55 Tube Mice narrated by Dennis Waterman and George Cole (r)  
12.05 The Riddlers (r) 12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and weather  
1.00 News at One with Nicholas Owen. Weather  
1.20 Daytime Green: The Earth Dwellers' Guide. The environmentally friendly show looks at green fashion, unadorned petrol, 2000s and the continuing attempts to turn a Birmingham family green 1.50 A Country Practice  
2.20 Dear Miriam. Dr Miriam Stoppard presents the problem play programme, using guests and a studio audience to help solve personal anxieties  
2.50 What's My Line? Angela Rippon presents the hoary occupation quiz which has regular panellists Jill Cooper and Roy Hudd joined by Hilary O'Neill and Gary McDonald

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Noah's Ark. The Andean Paramos, plateaus 2,000 to 4,000m above sea level (r)  
6.20 Business Daily  
6.30 The Channel 4 Daily  
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Soothing 7.30-8.00 Watchdog 10.35 Marmite 11.05 Children 11.05 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.35 Film: Horror Express. Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing 2.15 Video View 2.45 America's Top Ten 3.15 Night Beat 4.10 The Invisible Man 4.35-5.00 Jobholder  
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# Thailand remands drug girl

From NEIL KELLY  
IN BANGKOK

TEENAGER Karen Smith was remanded at Bangkok criminal court yesterday until August 5 on charges of attempting to smuggle heroin out of Thailand. Her hearing took only a few minutes. She was not asked to plead.

After her appearance, Karen, of Solihull, who will be 19 next month, said: "I don't want to stay in a greasy cell for a lifetime." With tears streaming down her face, she spoke to her father through the bars of a dark, humid cell under the court. She said she felt worse than when she was arrested a week ago at Bangkok airport. Eric Smith said the reality of his daughter's plight was just hitting her.

Karen's lawyer said there would be more remands at 12-day intervals before the case proceeded. Police said enquiries were centred in Thailand and England on suspects who may have financed and obtained the 49 lb of heroin allegedly found in the baggage of Karen and her companion, Patricia Cahill, aged 17, who has been similarly charged.



Photographers spot Karen Smith in a police car at Bangkok criminal court where she is facing heroin smuggling charges

## Six oilmen killed in helicopter crash

By KERRY GILL

SIX oil workers were killed when a Sikorsky S61 helicopter crashed into the North Sea, 116 miles northeast of Lerwick, Shetland, yesterday as it approached a rig in the Brent oil field.

Seven of the 13 people on board, 11 oil workers and two crew, were saved by rescue craft after they scrambled out seconds before the aircraft sank. The helicopter, owned by British International Helicopters, was about 100 yards from the Brent Spar tanker loading facility to which it was heading.

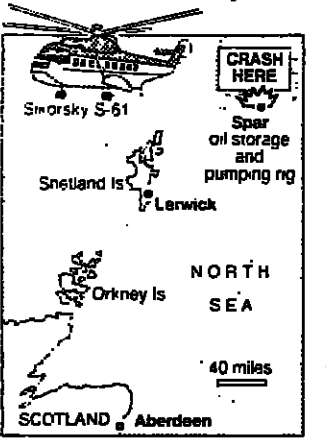
Last night, one of the survivors told how the helicopter's tail rotor hit the jib of the Brent Spar's crane as it manoeuvred towards the helipad. David Reid, aged 45, of Ayr, was speaking at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. "We spiralled into the deck and fell into the sea. The chopper fell on to its side and quickly filled with water. I managed to scramble out through the window," he said. "I must have been the last to get out."

Shell refused to confirm or deny reports that the helicopter crashed after its tail rotor hit the jib of the Brent Spar's crane. Bob Reid, chairman of Shell, said: "It would be wrong for me to speculate about what happened." Con-

ditions in the area were calm but low-lying fog hampered visibility. A remote-controlled diving vehicle found the Sikorsky 450ft below on the seabed and preparations were being made last night to bring it to the surface. Shell UK, operators of the oilfield, said. The bodies of the six missing men were later found in the fuselage.

The seven people rescued by craft from two standby vessels, the Seaboard Sentry and Seaboard Supporter, were taken to the Safe Gothia accommodation unit for medical checks.

Aberdeen coastguard, which co-ordinated the search and rescue operation, said it was unaware of any SOS



before the crash. The survivors, one with a broken leg, were flown to Aberdeen after treatment on the Safe Gothia. Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat MP for Gordon, said: "I will be seeking a full investigation into the crash."

In November, 1988, a similar Sikorsky, known as the workhorse of the North Sea, was forced to ditch in rough seas 130 miles north of Aberdeen. The 13 men on board leaped to safety before it sank. In 1983, a S61, owned by British Airways, crashed off the Isles of Scilly. Twenty people on board perished.

Mr Parkinson, transport secretary, disagreed over the statistics of helicopter accidents with John Prescott, Opposition spokesman on transport. Mr Prescott said that S61 helicopters had been involved in three losses in two years and eight had ditched in 20 years.

Mr Parkinson said that in the past 10 years, there had been one fatal accident involving the type. "There is no reason to make sweeping remarks about the aircraft and he should not do anything that suggests he has leapt to a snap judgment that causes unnecessary concern to relatives and to those still working in the North Sea."

## Ridley's art export rules come under attack

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

NEW rules which will allow private buyers to bid for art treasures of national importance to prevent them going abroad could make works of art vulnerable to the clandestine art market.

The advisers to the arts minister on exports say that unless key alterations are made, national treasures which public collections cannot afford to buy could be permanently locked away from public gaze and scholarly study, suffer from inadequate conservation conditions or even disappear into the clandestine art market.

The reviewing committee on the export of works of art was set up 38 years ago to advise on the control of the export of works of art and antiques, to consider cases where an export licence might be refused on grounds of national importance, and to supervise the operation of the export control system.

An export licence for an object of national importance can already be delayed to allow public collections to match the price. In May Nicholas Ridley, the former trade secretary, introduced the new element of public bidding so that private bidders could bid. This was immediately followed by a £7.6 million bid to match that of an overseas

buyer for the Canova "Three Graces" sculpture. The British bid was made by David and Frederick Barclay, private collectors, whose offer is still being considered by the owners.

However, according to the report, the publication of which has been delayed because of the recent ministerial shuffle, the change is potentially dangerous. Ratified last week by an advisory council made up of an expert in the country by an expert representative of the art and antiques trade, museum directors and representatives of the bodies, the report calls for key changes and, if necessary, legislation to enforce them to close loopholes.

Although in the case of the Canova statue the Barclay brothers have offered a 25-

year guarantee of public access, the committee of advisers is concerned that private buyers are not being required to guarantee public access.

"In fact," the report says, "we believe that there are circumstances in which, if British public collections were unable to acquire a heritage object, it would be preferable for it to go to the Louvre or the Getty Museum where it would be available for study, rather than to be acquired and kept in this country by an unscrupulous private owner." The committee wants 20 years' public access guaranteed.

The advisers are concerned that dealers could be given access. "Since a dealer could presumably be classed as a private owner the measures could even be used by members of the art trade" it says.

## Bae has 'right' to test ruling under Rome treaty

Continued from page 1  
discuss details because it could be prejudicial to our case," he said. Linklaters and Paines, the City solicitors, have been hired by BAE.

Peter Lilley, the new trade and industry secretary, said in a Commons written reply yesterday: "The BAE chairman (Professor Roland

Smith) told me today that the company propose to test in the European Court the Commission's requirement that they repay £44.4 million to the government. The company has this right under Article 173 of the Treaty of Rome."

As fresh evidence emerged of additional hidden "sweeteners", the Commons

trade and industry committee yesterday withdrew its report over the government's handling of the Rover sale to BAE (Sheila Gunn writes).

The committee has now recalled Lord Young of Gifford, a former trade and industry secretary, to explain a promise he made to BAE that applications for financial

assistance would be "sympathetically considered".

His offer to Professor Smith on July 14, 1988, was reported yesterday. The draft report, which has now been withdrawn, had treated Lord Young lightly over the "sweeteners" he sanctioned for BAE in return for purchasing Rover for £150 million.

### Political sketch

## MP-speak lacks spice of life

...Their already and justifiably fading green pretensions... Phrases from Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, never quite work. Parliamentary oratory, like a good dinner, needs meat; or, if it has no meat, it must be spicy; or, if it lacks both substance and flavour then, like a green salad, it must at least be fresh. But Mr Gould's interventions resemble salads which have sat too long under the hot canteen lamps. They were never meaty and they are not spicy: losing freshness, they lose everything.

He is a wise and able man, yet his sentences seem (as they say) two coupons short of a pop-up toaster. It may stem from his spell in New Zealand, but Gould reads as though translated, competently but without flair, from the Maori.

Mr Gould was cross-questioning junior environment minister David Trippier about the nature of a conservancy council. Trippier's prose style was well matched to his Antipodean interrogator's. Trippier had just said this: "The hon gentleman (the SLD's Robert MacLennan) has presented to the House a true and fair picture of what precisely will happen in reality..." - wait, there is more - "...on the ground."

To Gould, Trippier ended in lyrical style: "My right hon friend and I are quite clear about this matter. We are under the microscope..." It was some while before he was on his feet again for a match, this time, for Leith's extraordinary Ron Brown. Brown achieved the distinction of being the only Labour MP to say "community charge" instead of "poll tax," by mistake, then correct himself. He went on to remark (of poll tax dodgers): "If they don't pay, it's an example of voting with their feet... er... pockets."

How would Trippier trump this? Labour's Martin Flannery ("Vast numbers of people are having to face the bailiffs and all that kind of thing...") inspired him. Eventually, his chance came.

"Mr Speaker I welcome the opportunity of welcoming the select committee's report..." This was splendid. Trippier's brother-minister, Michael Spicer, had estab-

lished a lead last year, with "Spicerspeak" (homelessness "is something I have seen severely deployed on the streets of Copenhagen") but Trippier now leaves Spicer standing.

Yesterday, Mr Spicer suffered sustained attacks of lucidity, often fatal in a housing minister. Anthony Steen (C, S Hams) had revealed figures for derelict land and empty houses and asked how the minister could "sleep well at night?"

"I'm not sure," smiled Spicer, "whether my hon friend really wanted an answer about my sleeping habits..."

There were cries of "Yes! Yes!" from a number of MPs, but they knew the truth already. As minister for housing Mr Spicer answers for those sleeping rough. But Mr Spicer sleeps smooth.

The official opposition got off to an awkward start yesterday, with their new policy of returning to a domestic rating system. They were edgy. The poll tax minister, Michael Portillo, referred to "free-loaders" who pay nothing under such a system. This enraged Labour, but in their rage one detected anxiety.

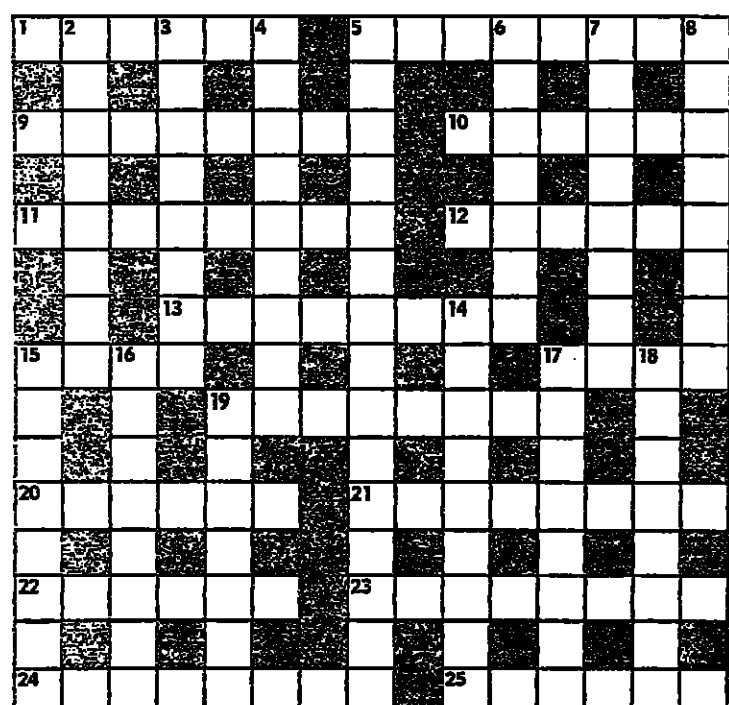
Labour used to attack the rating system. Their going back to it may persuade Tory doubters that poll tax was wise, after all. I have heard one Tory react to Labour's new policy of defending police efficiency against the government, with the remark "Maybe Waddington's right, and the police do need looking at." That afternoon, as Labour wrung their hands over defence cuts, one sensed wavering Tory backbenchers finding new merit in Mr King's retrenchment plans.

Returning to the rates may prove, in what environment secretary Chris Patten yesterday claimed was a quote from the Labour leader himself, "a leap into the frying pan." Kinnockspeak!

So thank heavens for that Yorkshire miner and parliamentary wordsmith, William O'Brien, (Lab, Normanton): "Is the minister aware that there's millions of women in this country...?" - a fatal pause, then many voices: "Yes! No! and, loudest of all, "Hoora!"

MATTHEW PARRIS

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,356



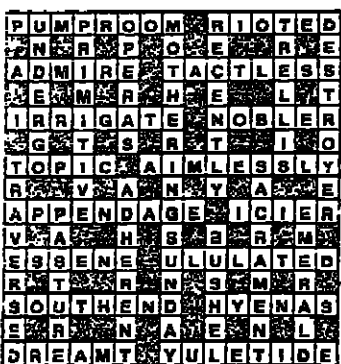
- ACROSS
- Join second force, having nothing to lose (6).
  - Artist from Harlow (6).
  - Married to Arthur's mother - what a headache! (8).
  - One thousand and two hurt (6).
  - Iberian resort about empty (8).
  - To fly, fellow gets drunk (4).
  - Marble accessory (4).
  - Get dazed and stop talking to sailors (3,5).
  - Voice is a hit in this circle (6).
  - 11 Left Wiltshire to be trained as an artist (18).

- Pale people demonstrating (6).
- Modern incursion into the 14th century (8).
- Talk about order - it is unimportant (2,6).
- Plain speaking of course (6).

#### DOWN

- Incite single girl to become wan-tion (8).
- Money paid in a note to others (8).
- Remove cycle with heartless order (9).
- Hash or stew fifth-rate? Quite the reverse! (2,3,5).
- Back to sea with new weaponry (7).
- Explosive blows up rock out of bed at first eruption (8).
- Merriment - it makes an appearance during term (8).
- Concerned with fool about to eat what is being prepared? (9).
- Fools fasten flap (4,4).
- With winter coming, the telephone plays a vital part (8).
- Tree I saw moving, so to speak (2,2,4).
- To have a good time, I have started smoking outside (4,2,2).
- In a way, foreigner is striking (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,355



The answer to 25 across in Tuesday's puzzle, No 18,354, should have been "precise".

Concise crossword, page 13

### WEATHER

It will be cloudy at first in coastal regions of England and Scotland and the cloud will spread inland, especially in the south. The northern isles will stay cloudy for much of the day. Elsewhere there will be long sunny periods and it will be very warm in sheltered central and western areas. Cloud will return to many eastern regions during the evening and there may be mist patches in other areas. Outlook: sunny at first, but cloud moving in from the south-west.

#### ABROAD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Ajaccio	27-31	S	10-15
Algiers	29-34	S	10-15
Amman	30-36	S	10-15
Ankara	27-31	S	10-15
Bahra	36-42	S	10-15
Barcelona	30-36	S	10-15
Berlin	16-21	S	10-15
Bombay	30-36	S	10-15
Buenos Aires	31-38	S	10-15
Calcutta	32-39	S	10-15
Cairo	31-38	S	10-15
Cape Town	25-31	S	10-15
Cebu	30-36	S	10-15
Colon	28-34	S	10-15
Hong Kong	30-36	S	10-15
London	17-23	S	10-15
Madras	30-36	S	10-15
Manila	30-36	S	10-15
Medan	30-36	S	10-15
Mumbai	30-36	S	10-15
Nairobi	25-31	S	10-15
Rangoon	30-36	S	10-15
Seoul	25-31	S	10-15
Singapore	30-36	S	10-15
Taipei	28-34	S	10-15
Tokyo	25-31	S	10-15
Yokohama	25-31	S	10-15

#### AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Scarbrough	12-17	S	10-15
Sheffield	12-17	S	10-15
Southampton	12-17	S	10-15
Stirling	12-17	S	10-15
Stroud	12-17	S	10-15
Swansea	12-17	S	10-15
Torquay	12-17	S	10-15
Weymouth	12-17	S	10-15
Widnes	12-17	S	10-15
Worcester	12-17	S	10-15
Wrexham	12-17	S	10-15
Wynnef	12-17	S	10-15
Wynnef	12-17	S	10-15
Wynnef	12-17	S	10-15
Wynnef	12-17	S	10-15

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

#### GORBELLY

a. A protuberant stomach

b. A double Oriel window

c. Ejaculatory variant of Cor Blimey!

#### DOURINE

a. A running slip-knot

b. White sherry from the Douro

c. A horse venereal disease

#### TALA

a. Musical rhythm

b. A counter at tritrac

c. A sepy subadar

#### RESTO

a. A musical direction

b. A restaurant

c. A break on a march

Answers on page 20

#### AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0896 401 followed by the appropriate code.

#### LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 24C (75F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 14C (57F). Humidity: 6 pm, 44 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 13.4 hr. 1,000 vehicles, falling.

#### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Prestatyn, 27C (81F); lowest day temp: Llandudno, 13C (55F). Highest rainfall: none. Lowest sunshine: Newcastle, 15.9 hr.

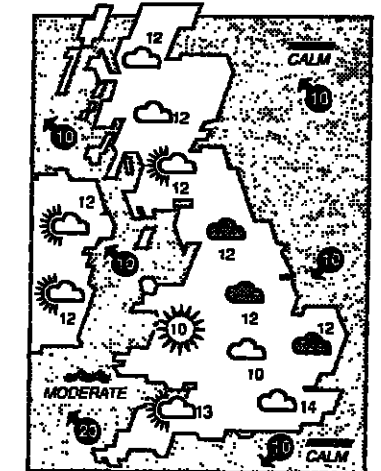
#### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 26C (79F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 13.4 hr.

#### GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 26C (79F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 13.4 hr.

### AM



#### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.58 pm to 5.16 am  
Bristol 9.08 pm to 5.26 am  
Edinburgh 9.32 pm to 5.07 am  
Manchester 9.16 pm to 5.16 am  
Penzance 9.14 pm to 5.44 am

#### YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud f. fair; r. rain; s. sun.

Belfast 23/23s Guernsey 22/22s  
Birmingham 25/25s Inverness 18/64s  
Blackpool 25/25s Jersey 26/77s  
Bristol 24/25s London 22/22s  
Cardiff 19/66s Manchester 23/73s  
Edinburgh 19/66s Newcastle 23/73s  
Glasgow 22/22s Plymouth 19/66s

#### TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times today: 6.45pm and 10.00pm.

#### HIGH TIDES

TODAY AM HT PM HT  
London Bridge 5.30 7.3 5.41 7.0  
Aberdeen 10.57 4.3 5.17 3.9  
Abermouth 10.57 4.3 5.17 3.9  
Belfast 2.30 3.7 3.05 3.1  
Cardiff 10.42 11.7 10.55 11.8  
Dorchester 9.29 5.1 9.37 5.3  
Devonport 2.28 6.3 2.45 6.8  
Falmouth 8.59 4.9 9.07 5.1  
Glasgow 4.42 5.2 4.45 4.6  
Hull 3.22 4.0 3.32 4.0  
Hythehead 1.39 5.6 2.07 5.1  
Llandudno 9.43 7.6 10.21 6.9  
Liverpool 9.44 8.8 10.00 8.5  
London 9.57 8.8 10.36 8.1  
Lynn 6.10 5.4 6.38 5.2  
Wilton-on-Maze 5.16 4.2 5.25 4.2

#### NOON TODAY

TODAY AM HT PM HT  
London Bridge 2.36 7.0 2.59 8.8  
Aberdeen 1.07 2.2 1.24 2.6  
Abermouth 1.07 2.2 1.24 2.6  
Belfast 3.44 4.7 3.48 4.7  
Birmingham 9.51 6.6 10.08 6.7  
Blackpool 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
Bristol 9.21 3.6 9.01 6.7  
Cardiff 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
Edinburgh 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
Glasgow 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
Hull 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
Hythehead 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
Llandudno 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
Liverpool 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
London 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
Lynn 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7  
Wilton-on-Maze 8.43 6.0 8.24 3.7

#### WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

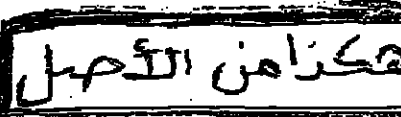
#### Greater London

Kent, Surrey, Sussex 701  
Dorset, Dorset & Essex 702  
Dorset, Dorset & Essex 703  
Devon & Cornwall 704  
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire & Somerset 705  
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford 706  
Beds, Herts & Essex 707  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708  
West Mid & Sh Giam & Gwent 709  
Shrops, Herefords & Wores 710  
Central Midlands 711  
East Midlands 712  
Lincoln & Humbersides 713  
Dyfed & Powys 714  
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715  
W & S Yorks & Darl. 716  
W & S Yorks & Darl. 717  
W & S Yorks & Darl. 718  
Cumbria & Lake District 719  
S W Scotland 720  
W Central Scotland 721  
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders 722  
S Central Scotland 723  
Grampian & E Highlands 724  
N W Scotland 725  
Gairloch, Orkney & Shetland 726  
N Ireland 727

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).  
\*Includes pollen count.

#### Information supplied by Met Office

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# BUSINESS

THURSDAY JULY 26 1990

## Oil prices to rise as demand outstrips Opec production

By HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

"IF ONLY Saddam could wait a while, all this drama would not be necessary", said a delegate to the preliminary meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Geneva yesterday. He was referring to the deployment of Iraqi troops by President Saddam Hussein along the border with Kuwait and he assumed the quarrel was primarily about oil prices.

What the delegate wanted to convey, however, was generally agreed: oil prices would go much higher over the next few years because demand would continue to increase while the production capacity of most Opec members would be unable to keep abreast.

During the past four years, the

demand for Opec oil rose from 15.5 million barrels per day (mbd) to 22.5 mbd, and prices rose to reflect the demand, despite the fluctuations and the quota-breakings. The organisation adheres to the prediction last November of Rihwan Lukman, its president, that by 1992, demand will be so high that individual country market shares, the quotas, will become unnecessary. Sheikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, then the oil minister of Kuwait, said at the same time that by the end of 1992, the demand for crude from members of the organisation would reach 24 mbd.

Any further rise above that level, however, might be beyond Opec's ability to fulfil, at least in the shorter term, according to Mehdi Varzi, director of

### Signs point to \$20 a barrel

OIL prices steadied as preparatory talks got under way in Geneva, ahead of the start of the full Opec session today (Martin Barrow writes). North Sea Brent crude for September slipped back 12 cents to \$19.45, while West Texas traded almost unchanged at \$20.53.

Prices relaxed as fears of military

intervention by Iraq in Kuwait receded and talks over quotas and a new target price for oil began in earnest. Reports that Iraq would call for prices of \$30 a barrel were dismissed by analysts last night as "unrealistic."

Negotiators are expected to press for \$25 a barrel, but settle for \$20.

energy research for Kleinwort Benson. He said yesterday that, with or without Opec, prices would go higher over the next few years.

He added: "The chances are high that the ministers will agree at this meeting in

Geneva to immediately increase the official price to \$20 per barrel, and I expect them to stick to it this time."

The Kuwaitis, like President Saddam, believe price rises are inevitable as demand catches up with capacity to

produce and export. The dispute between the Iraqis and the Iranians, on the one hand, and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, on the other, is over methods and time scales. The latter group wants prices to rise naturally and more slowly; the former through immediate action by the cartel. The latter consists of those who do have the ability to produce more, while the former have over-exploited many of their oil fields.

Assuming the industrialised countries that consume three-quarters of the world's energy production are not plunged into a recession, will an invigorated oil cartel be in a position to quadruple prices suddenly, as it did in 1973? Oil experts believe not. Producers

and consumers have learned that such erratic behaviour is destabilising and serves nobody's interests. The experts also say the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf is no longer the "global choke point for oil". Extra pipelines are running through Saudi Arabia and others through Turkey. Another war in the Gulf region would not disrupt exports to the same extent as in the past.

Finally, the green lobby hopes that increases would encourage industrialised countries to redouble efforts in developing kinder, gentler alternatives to fossil fuels. To the holders of this view, the \$30 oil barrel is heaven sent.

Can Opec survive? Page 10

### AFF plans flotation next year

ASSOCIATED Fresh Foods, a £65 million management buy-out from the Asda-MFI group in 1987, is planning a stock market flotation next year.

Unveiling a 13 per cent rise in operating profits at £11 million for the year to end-April, Harry Lavery, the AFF chairman, said that Lazard Brothers, the group's financial adviser, is "reviewing options" open to the group, and the outline plan is to bring the company to the market in 1991.

AFF is one of the country's leading fresh food manufacturers and distributors, and includes Associated Dairies and Cravendale Foods, which supplies dairy and food products to the retail, wholesale and catering trades.

Pre-tax profits were £3.6 million against £3.3 million, said Mr Lavery, on a turnover of £164 million.

### Lasmo ahead

Lasmo, the independent oil exploration and production company, increased net income by 17 per cent to £32 million during the six months to the end of June. Earnings rose by 9 per cent to 8.2p a share and the interim dividend is increased 10 per cent to 2.2p.

### Hepworth dips

Hepworth, the building products group, made pre-tax profits of £50.1 million in the first six months of 1990, against £53.3 million previously. The interim dividend rose from 5.15p to 5.5p a share.

Tempus, page 25

### THE POUND

US dollar 1.8095 (-0.0155)  
West German mark 2.9328 (-0.0219)  
Exchange index 92.9 (-0.8)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1865.7 (-1.0)  
FT-SE 100 2364.7 (+3.8)  
New York Dow Jones 2926.49 (+3.97)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 31701.27 (-1.19)  
Closing Prices ... Page 27

### Major indices and major changes

Page 26

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%  
3-month interbank 15.14%  
3-month eligible bills 14.14%  
US: Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 7.75%  
3-month Treasury Bills 7.54-7.52%  
30-year bonds 10.1%-10.12%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1 81.00  
£ DM 6.50  
£ Sfr 1.48  
£ FF 16.48  
£ Yen 148.95  
£ Index 92.9  
ECU £ 70.348  
ECU £ 42.1771

### GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$367.40 pm \$372.75  
close \$372.25-372.75 (2205.75-206.25)  
New York:  
Comex \$372.70-373.20

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$19.15 (\$19.30)  
\* Denotes latest trading price

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.45	2.45
Belgium F	63.30	63.30
Canada C	1.17	1.17
Denmark Kr	11.65	11.65
Finland Mk	10.25	10.25
France F	20.25	20.25
Germany DM	3.425	3.425
Greece Dr	14.64	14.64
Hong Kong \$	1.14	1.14
Ireland P	2.10	2.10
Italy Lira	284	284
Japan Yen	163.60	163.60
Netherlands Gld	3.425	3.425
Norway Kr	1.17	1.17
Portugal Esc	20.25	20.25
Spain Ptas	166.60	166.60
Sweden Kr	1.17	1.17
Switzerland F	2.05	2.05
Turkey Lira	1.17	1.17
USA \$	1.17	1.17
Yugoslavia Dnr	25.00	25.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 125.7 (June)

## De Beers signs \$5bn deal for Russian gems

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

DE BEERS Centenary, the Swiss arm of South Africa's De Beers diamond group, has signed a five-year exclusive contract worth a total of \$5 billion with the Soviet Union to market and sell rough diamonds.

The breakthrough agreement, initiated by the Russians and prompted by their need for foreign exchange, additionally involves a \$1 billion five-year loan, advanced at commercial rates of interest via De Beers Centenary's Luxembourg-based subsidiary.

Collateral for the \$1 billion advance is a Soviet stockpile of diamonds held in the State Treasury.

The agreement was signed in London yesterday by Valery Roudakov, head of Glavalmazoloto of the Soviet Union - the main administration for precious metals and diamonds under the Council of Ministers - and Nicholas Oppenheimer, deputy chairman of De Beers Centenary.

The \$1 billion bankers' draft was delivered to the Russians yesterday afternoon, and is secured against future Soviet diamond deliveries.

For the past 27 years, De Beers has only acknowledged that its links with Soviet diamonds, sold through its Central Selling Organisation marketing arm, have been "indirect".

Yesterday's agreement restores direct Russian/De

Beers links broken in 1963. De Beers conceded that the recent establishment of a Swiss arm to hold all the group's non-South African assets, and the recent pace of political change in South Africa, may have played a part in the Russian initiative.

Negotiations between the two parties had been held in London and the Soviet Union over the past three months, the group said.

De Beers Centenary also acquires a stockpile of rough diamonds held in the State Treasury whose value Moscow wanted to realise.

The Soviet Union has traditionally been "responsible" in its marketing, and the De Beers loan against the stockpile will be seen as a near way of not disrupting the market.

Gary Ratte, a De Beers director, said that there had been no hint or threat by the Russians that they would dump their stockpile in order to secure the agreement.

"We learned of the stockpile as our negotiations progressed," he said.

Russian rough diamonds from the stockpile have started to arrive in London for sorting and classification by the CSO. However, because

Russian gems have for long made up part of the CSO's regular sights, no particular disruption from yesterday's agreement is expected.

The CSO sold \$4.09 billion worth of rough diamonds in 1989, and in the first six months of this year sales were

\$2.48 billion. The Russian element is estimated to equate to just over 20 per cent of total CSO sales.

The percentage of the world's rough gem diamonds that the CSO handles will rise from 80 per cent to at least 85 per cent.

The Soviet Union, along with Botswana - home of the fabulously rich Jwaneng diamond mine - is acknowledged as one of the world's two more significant producers, by value. Its gem stones essentially come from the Yakutia region of northeastern Siberia and are mined in temperatures that range from -60C to 40C.

Soviet gems are described as being of "good quality", and come in a range of sizes.

The \$1 billion loan will be used for the further development of Russian diamond mines, in which De Beers might be expected to play a part.

In 1987, De Beers transacted a stockpile, cash and share deal with Botswana. In 1989, De Beers signed a "declaration of intent" to help Angola to develop its potentially vast diamond deposits.

There was no request for an equity interest in De Beers Centenary by the Russians. De Beers said that it would be "well placed" should Russian diamond mines ever come up for sale, or if the Russians became interested in joint ventures to mine diamonds.

Debts cleared, page 25

## Analysts call power sales 'a midsummer madness'

By MARTIN WALLER

A SUBSTANTIAL and growing minority of City analysts are convinced that the continuing confusion over the possible sale of PowerGen to Hanson has made both electricity generators unfloatable in their current form.

And the leaking of news of a possible sale of PowerGen and the larger National Power was looking last night increasingly like a massive public relations blunder by the government.

Analysts cannot comment openly on the affair, due to its political sensitivity and because of their close ties with the 16 companies in the industry which will be floated.

But they were privately hitting out at the government's handling of the generators' sale as a "shambles," a

"farce" and a case of "midsummer madness."

One commented: "They have totally scuppered the flotation of either company. The government has admitted defeat."

The City is convinced that the introduction of Hanson, at a time when the Department of Energy and the companies were locked in complex and often bitter talks over the amount of debt the two would have to assume, was a piece of political brinkmanship that went badly wrong.

If Hanson now walks away from a purchase of PowerGen - thought quite possible given the current furor - the value of the companies will inevitably be diminished by its lack of interest. But if it buys the smaller of the two, National Power's future viability may be threatened.

This is because it will be saddled with debts, while Lord Hanson's conglomerate has deep pockets from which to fund future expansion, particularly by putting up combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power stations which are cheaper to build and operate.

"Anybody who had the money to buy a generator and build those CCGTs could establish themselves as market leader within 15 years," said another analyst. "If PowerGen is bought, National Power itself could become unsaleable. The implications for National Power are all seriously negative."

Union anger, page 25

### Brittan to lead study into suspected aid for UK plant

## EC to investigate Toyota land price

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner for competition policy, is to open an investigation into the sale of land for the proposed Toyota plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, on the suspicion that the site has been offered at less than market price.

Such an incentive, Sir Leon announced, would constitute an illegal state aid, as Derbyshire is not an area eligible for regional aid. "The commission considers that there appears to be no justification for it in community terms," a statement said.

The commission does not suspect the British government of paying a subsidy to Toyota or determining the price fixed for the land sales. It is investigating only possible aid from local authorities, which are also bound by EC rules on state aids.

Derbyshire County Council is said to have sold a 280-acre site, formerly an old

airport, at a discount of almost £10,000 per acre. The district valuer, an independent public official employed by the Inland Revenue, assessed the land at £45,000 per acre, with a total of £12.6 million for the site. The council sold it to Toyota for £9.9 million, or £35,357 per acre.

Brussels said this difference constituted state aid that should have been notified to the commission under a 1989 law relating to state aid to the motor industry. The council council has also sold a 300-acre adjoining piece of land to Toyota. The commission has opened an enquiry into this sale to discover whether any state aid was involved.

Observers believe Sir Leon has come under pressure to undertake a well-publicised investigation of the Toyota deal to demonstrate his impartiality towards his native country.

The commission announced yesterday that it will begin monitoring all large-

scale mergers within the community on September 21. The policy was agreed in December.

Brussels will also publish a regulation defining the rights and obligations of the commission and companies involved in mergers.

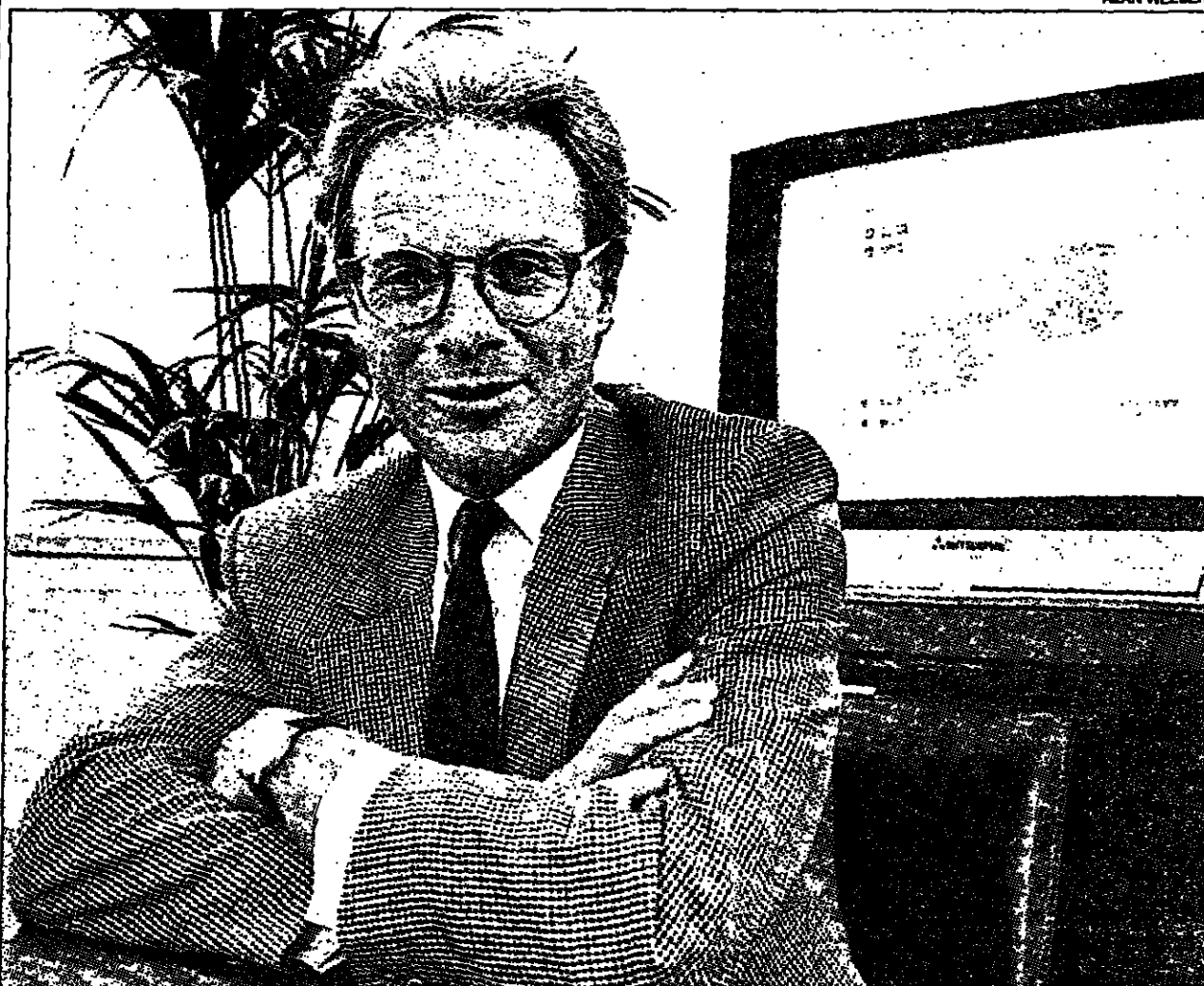
A form for notifications has been drawn up, balancing the commission's need for full information at the beginning of a case and the need to keep the burden on industry to a minimum.

The new merger regulation will be applied if any two companies have a combined annual global turnover of £4.5 billion, or if each has business within the EC worth more than £250 million. Companies that can show that more than two-thirds of their joint earnings are in a single EC country will be referred instead to national merger and monopoly bodies.

EA go-ahead, page 24

## Aegis tunes in with £34.6m

ALAN WELLER



Peter Scott, chairman and chief executive of Aegis, the former advertising agency that has become a media buyer, yesterday announced profits up 58 per cent to £34.6 million, against £21.9 million, in the half-year to end-June. The interim 2.75p dividend is a 67 per cent rise on the 1.65p paid last year. Tempus, page 25

### Poor result at Budgens hits shares

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BUDGENS, the supermarket group, which gave a profits warning three weeks ago, reported pre-tax profits, clean of property, of £2.76 million for the year to end-April, but after stripping out all exceptional profits and costs the group made a loss of £1.5 million.

The figures were worse than some analysts had been expecting. Forecasts had been reduced to £3 million clean of property and exceptional after the profits warning. The shares fell 5p to 55p yesterday, their low point for the year.

Budgens reported pre-tax profits, including £9.1 million of property profits, of £11.8 million for the year to April, against £16.4 million for the 70 weeks to April 1989. Sales fell from £381 million to £291 million and earnings per share fell from 14p to 10.5p. A final dividend of 5p maintains the payout at 5p for the year.

John Fletcher, chairman and chief executive, said that the £135 million aborted bid from William Low, the Scottish supermarket company, last year had disrupted the business. Problems with the distribution centre had cost the group £4.41 million. It would be some time before sales recovered fully from the problems. He expected minimal profit in the current year's first half, with a significant improvement in the second.

## Major's remarks hurt pound

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE pound slid in foreign exchange markets as dealers expressed their disappointment with remarks made by John Major, the chancellor, in the Commons on Tuesday. Dealers were unhappy at his failure to mention British plans for membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

Sterling fell steeply over-

night as traders in New York and Tokyo took their profits. After opening 0.7 down on the effective rate index at 93, it was steady for most of the day in London, closing at 92.9.

Against the dollar it was down 1.5 cents at \$1.8095, and against the mark down 2.19 pfennigs at DM2.9328.

In evidence to the Treasury select committee yesterday, Mr Major reaffirmed his

intention to take sterling into the ERM, but gave no clue to when.

In the stock market, gilt-edged securities fell back on the weakness of sterling, falling about 1/4%.

● The Confederation of British Industry has backed the chancellor's hard ecu plan. The CBI sees the plan as a step towards a single European currency.

CNT

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## Berisford sells US jewellery business

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

BERISFORD International, the diversified sugar group hit by losses on American property ventures, has abandoned discussions on a management-led buyout of its British property business.

Berisford said it had ended the discussions, which had been going on for several months, to start talks with other potential buyers. In the six months to end-March, Berisford's British property interests made a loss of £10.9 million after writing off £12.5 million on an up-to-date valuation by Richard Ellis.

The previously announced sale of the NGI jewellery business in America has been completed for \$2.9 million. Berisford has sold the assets of NGI, but not the company, which is pursuing a share insurance claim in the courts for more than double the sale price of the business.

John Slater, the chairman, said: "The disposal, on satisfactory terms, of NGI is particularly encouraging in view of our past losses."

Associated British Foods, which owns 24 per cent of Berisford, has been in discussions over British Sugar, but there have been no talks in the past two weeks. Talks are going on with other parties over various parts of the group.

Berisford shares, a weak market of late, recovered by 2p to 56p.

### Broad Street to raise £1.4m

THE rights issue at Broad Street Group, the public relations company at which James Gulliver is to step down as chairman soon, will be on a one-for-four basis at 18p. Most of the issue, which is to raise about £1.4 million, is being underwritten by the 29.9 per cent shareholder, Boulet Dru Dupuy Petit, the French advertising agency. Philip Dunne, an associate of Mr Gulliver, will join Broad Street's board to look after Mr Gulliver's interests until his holding is reduced. The shares yesterday remained at 18p.

# BA cleared for take-off in link with Sabena

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways has cleared the first hurdle in the path of its planned involvement with Sabena World Airlines. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday ruled the move would not be against the public interest.

The MMC had been asked to investigate BA's proposed 20 per cent stake in the Brussels airline after rival airlines claimed the link could be anti-competitive and against the public interest.

After a three-month investigation, the MMC also concluded that there would also be "substantial benefits" to British consumers in the plans, now being drawn up for the future growth and development of SWA.

BA took its stake, costing £34 million, in December. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines also took 20 per cent while Sabena retained 60 per cent.

The idea was to develop a "hub and spoke" operation at Zaventem airport in Brussels that would link 75 provincial cities in Europe, including 14 in the United Kingdom, by flying passengers into the one airport and out again with the minimum of waiting time when transferring aircraft.

Several airlines protested, arguing that such close co-operation between three of the biggest airlines in Europe and the potential predatory powers it gave them must be against the interests of rival operations and the travelling public.

The MMC agreed that competition between BA and Sabena on the existing Brussels-Heathrow route was "less than vigorous", but decided that any possibility of them raising fares was constrained by the regulatory powers of the Civil Aviation Authority. The MMC also decided that British Midland, one of the most vocal opponents, could compete by using its licence to fly in competition with BA and Sabena if it wished.

However, the MMC was concerned about "the shortcoming in the present arrangements for slot allocation at both Heathrow and Gatwick", regarding these as restricting competition.

But the matter does not fall



The way ahead: MMC told Lord King the link with SWA has 'substantial benefits'

## How the Brussels hub would work

THE main object of the link is to fly businessmen from any one of 75 European cities to any other of the cities and back again within a day.

SWA plans either two or three waves of aircraft arriving daily in Brussels and then flying on to other destinations. The first operations are planned for the summer of 1991. A full timetable would

be in place by 1995. Sabena's short-haul fleet would be increased from 24 to 66 aircraft and its long-haul operations from 11 to 19.

This would enable 400 European flights a day to operate in and out of Brussels. Where the hub differs is in the development of regional services. The four London area airports plus Southampton,

Norwich, Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, East Midlands, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Belfast would be linked directly to Brussels. Connecting flights would be guaranteed to places as far apart as Helsinki and Valencia.

Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall each have a seat on the SWA ten-man board.

mission hurdle was not as daunting as that created by the European Commission, which is taking a broader look at the proposed link between the three airlines.

The commission's report is expected to be published in September or October. BA has already made it clear that if it is prevented by bureaucratic pressure from Brussels from implementing what it is convinced is a good scheme, it will simply pull out altogether and not become involved in any horse trading to try to find a compromise.

He added: "The decision by the MMC shows that our investment in Sabena is in the UK public interest. We are confident that the EC competition authorities will also respond positively to this pan-European initiative to give better and more varied services to the European customer."

The monopolies com-

now press ahead with greater confidence in implementing the plans, which will provide benefits for travellers within Europe, especially in the UK regions."

"Sabena World Airlines can

## Dunsdale claims to be heard

By a CORRESPONDENT

DUNSDALE Securities, which collapsed owing £17 million, was officially declared in default by the Investors' Compensation Scheme yesterday.

This means that the scheme will consider claims from Dunsdale investors, although it will not be able to pay them more than £48,000 each. Some had invested £1 million or more.

There will also be a delay of some months before the scheme can get at Dunsdale's records, which are currently held by the Serious Fraud Office.

Eddie Ray, the scheme chairman, said that claims relating to investment business with Dunsdale before the start of the scheme on August 28, 1988, could be considered "subject to the quality of the evidence". An investor would have to have proof of money paid to the firm, and statements or other confirmation that the investments or supposed investments were still held by it on that date.

"It does not matter if the investments were never bought," said Mr Ray, explaining that the scheme had already paid out in cases in which people had been wrongly led to believe that collapsed firms had been holding securities for them.

The compensation scheme has paid out 1,008 claims totalling £3.6 million in its 23 months of operation. It estimated yesterday that compensation and management costs during the coming year will total £7.1 million.

It has "abated" or reduced 14 claims in line with its rules that provide for payment in full of the first £30,000 and 90 per cent of the next £20,000.

The last seven firms declared in default by the compensation scheme all belonged to Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association.

Mr Ray said that the scheme had been in discussion with Fimbra and the Securities and Investments Board over what had led to the failures.

Mr Ray suggested guidelines for investors including not giving money to businesses not authorised to take clients' money.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### BTR buys Canadian paper companies

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, is strengthening its paper interests with a Can\$130 million (£61.7 million) cash takeover of two Canadian companies. BTR is buying Niagara Lockport Industries Quebec and Niagara Lockport Industries from Ivaco Inc, which will form part of BTR's paper group. The Canadian companies make paper machine clothing—a custom-engineered forming, pressing and drying medium that transforms pulp slurry into finished paper.

The takeovers will give BTR five manufacturing plants in the United States and Canada and net assets of Can\$110 million. The acquisitions are subject to the approval of the American and Canadian authorities. Bob Faircloth, an executive BTR director, says North America still offers BTR long-term opportunities for investment and growth. BTR shares fell 15p to 411p after the news.

### Greenwich gold hopes

GREENWICH Resources believes there could be immediate potential for commercial gold production from its concessions in Venezuela. Colin Phipps, chairman, hopes to outline proposals soon. There was a net loss of £943,000 for the half year to March 31 (loss of £914,000) and there is no interim dividend.

### Big outflow at unit trusts

UNIT trusts last month recorded their biggest net outflow of funds, at £63.8 million. The figure resulted from an exceptional technical distortion caused by £243 million of redemptions from two life assurance companies, Allied Dunbar and Standard Life, which were transferring holdings from units to direct holdings of shares.

### Worthington leaps

AJ WORTHINGTON (Holdings), the textiles manufacturer and knitwear importer, reports a jump in pre-tax profits from £102,000 to £465,000 for the year to end-March. Turnover increased by 31 per cent to £5.82 million. The results were boosted by a first-time contribution from Steinberger Holdings, the supplier of buttons, trimmings and shoulder pads to the clothing industry, which was acquired last August. Earnings per share climbed 57 per cent to 3.3p. The first and final dividend is improved 25 per cent to 0.625p. The shares firmed 5p to 45p on the news.

### Premiums up New French deal for Cape

REFUGE Group, the Manchester life assurance company, enjoyed a 41 per cent rise in premiums to £30.5 million in the first half of this year. The main increase came from sales of Canterbury Life's income bonds, which rose 39 per cent to £14.8 million. Unit trusts attracted investments of £7.93 million (£500,000).

### Fimbra bans firm

A NORTHERN Irish firm of investment advisers has been ordered to cease trading by Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association. Edward J McCann Brokers, of Mandeville Street, Portadown, Co Armagh, has been suspended under Fimbra's Rule 17, preventing it from conducting or soliciting new business or disposing of assets. Edward J McCann joined Fimbra in March last year. It was authorised to advise on a range of investments and handle client money.

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (pts)	Yearly chg (pts)
The World	695.4	0.8	-17.6	0.3	-8.2
(free)	132.6	0.8	-17.8	0.2	-8.4
EAPE	1227.7	0.8	-21.2	0.1	-12.8
(free)	125.8	0.8	-21.6	0.0	-12.2
Europe	741.0	0.9	-2.6	0.2	0.8
(free)	159.2	0.9	-2.6	0.0	0.5
Nth America	483.2	1.0	-10.2	0.0	0.6
Nordic	1551.3	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.5
(free)	247.9	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.1
Pacific	2711.3	0.6	-31.6	0.0	-20.9
Far East	3914.3	0.6	-32.4	0.0	-21.6
Australia	305.0	1.2	-12.2	0.2	-1.0
Austria	1969.4	0.9	32.5	-0.2	42.5
Belgium	875.7	1.9	-11.1	0.7	-8.4
Canada	445.8	0.9	-19.1	-0.4	-9.8
Denmark	1331.6	1.0	1.2	0.0	6.3
Finland	90.6	2.1	-21.4	1.2	-17.1
(free)	133.3	0.9	-10.6	0.0	-5.7
France	755.8	1.5	-8.8	0.3	-1.5
Germany	928.8	1.0	1.2	0.0	8.8
Hong Kong	2491.8	1.4	12.9	0.5	25.1
Italy	365.3	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.5
Japan	4094.8	0.6	-33.6	0.0	-22.9
Netherlands	857.5	1.9	-9.3	0.8	-2.6
New Zealand	87.3	-0.7	-15.3	-1.2	-4.7
Norway	1510.4	1.0	12.5	0.1	19.6
(free)	269.5	1.2	12.8	0.4	19.9
Sing/Malay	1967.9	1.4	-1.3	0.7	5.8
Spain	230.1	1.0	-2.8	0.0	-1.1
Sweden	1777.7	1.0	1.3	0.0	8.1
(free)	260.0	0.7	7.4	-0.2	14.8
Switzerland	914.7	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.3
(free)	137.5	1.3	-1.5	0.3	-1.0
UK	703.7	0.3	-2.4	0.3	-2.4
USA	437.7	1.0	-9.4	0.1	1.5

(pts) Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

## ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 14,140	CU 1,217	Lowth 1,040	Shell 4,483
Abbey Nat 1,732	Cookson 344	Lucas 1,712	Smith 428
Adel-Lyons 1,072	Countdown 288	Manpower 1,834	Smith & N 217
Amstrad 425	Dalgety 253	M&S 831	SK Beech 971
Anglo 4,105	Dunnes 3,393	Maxwell Cm 2,334	Do Us 27
Anglo 412	Ensign 1,056	M&S Group 851	Mecca 267
ASDA 5,639	Ferranti 2,882	M&S Ind 1,648	Smiths Ind 1,648
AB Foods 51	Fisons 783	M&S Ind 1,648	Smiths Ind 1,648
Anglo 2,781	F&L 809	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
BAA 3,463	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
BET 2,922	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
BET 12,441	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
BAT 5,015	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Bates 2,212	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Bass 611	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Beazer 1,495	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Bentley Int 589	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
BIC 589	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Biscuits 2,483	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
BOL 374	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Bosch 5,100	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
BPF 410	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Br Aero 1,136	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Br Airways 4,025	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Br Comm 1,136	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Br Gas 6,237	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Br Land 1,136	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Br Steel 6,237	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Br Telecom 4,719	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Bunzl 699	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Buss 1,734	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
C&W 2,631	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Castbury 1,432	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Calor 175	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291
Coats 243	Gen Acc 1,515	Nat West 4,361	Taylor Wd 1,291

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## E Germans flock to join banks in West

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

COMMERZBANK of West Germany gained 10,000 East German customers and deposits of DM140 million in the first two weeks after monetary union this month.

The West German bank also made loans of DM260 million in the East in the time and handled securities transactions worth DM12 million.

However, the rush to open accounts at Commerzbank was small compared with the experience of its larger rivals, Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank. Deutsche has claimed 65,000 new customers in the same period.

Commerzbank is at a disadvantage in the new market, since, unlike the others, it has not set up a joint venture with Deutsche Kreditbank, the former state-owned East German bank.

However, the Commerzbank plans to have a staff of 600 in the East by the end of the year.

The figures were disclosed by Walter Seipp, the chairman, with the bank's interim results to the end of June.

Group operating profits rose 17.5 per cent to DM611 million, recovering from a flat performance last year. Commerzbank's assets rose 4 per cent to DM198 billion.

However, the Commerzbank risks losing its position as Germany's third largest bank after last week's merger of Bayerische Vereinsbank and Vereinsbank and Westbank, which have combined assets of DM195 billion.

Herr Seipp said that Commerzbank was expecting "a clear, double-digit increase" in profits for the year.

## Savills falls to £3.49m after second-half slump

By MARTIN WALLER

SAVILLS, the estate agent, made pre-tax profits of just £346,000 in the second half, dragging the total for the year down to £3.49 million, against £6.52 million before.

The company refuses to break down its interim figures, but the residential side, marginally profitable in the first half, lost £494,000 at the operating level in the full year to end-April. George Inge, the chairman, said this was despite some upturn in the residential market in January and February though it had petered out.

He added that the London residential market had picked up recently and was in profit. The country house sector was still extremely flat.

The agency had benefited from a share in the £10 million sale of a house in Eaton Square by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the impresario, during the year. A town house in Mayfair had also been sold for about £6 million.

Savills is holding its final dividend at 2.625p, making an unchanged total of 3.75p.

The shares edged back 2p to



Inge: 'tough year ahead'

64p, 4p above the low reached in April. They were placed at 125p in June 1988.

The loss on the residential side for the year compared with a profit of £824,000 last time. The group's other two divisions, commercial and agricultural, also saw reduced operating profits. Commercial fell from £3.87 million to £2.96 million, while agricultural dropped from £1.27 million to £784,000.

Savills is not optimistic about the current financial year, although Mr Inge said

the group is well placed for when the market improves. "The current year will be a tough one for us," he admitted.

Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of between £1 million and £2 million, although they stress these are extremely preliminary figures and could change if the market deteriorates further.

The company was hit by unspecified bad debt provisions from the failures of Rush & Tompkins, the property group, and Leisure Investments, the owner of Lingfield racecourse. Analysts believe these total more than £100,000. Savills was also hit by the cost of opening two new residential offices, at Sevenoaks, Kent, and Exeter, which lost about £150,000 each in their first year of operation.

Mr Inge said the London residential business had the benefit of a number of house valuations for local authorities before their transfer to housing associations. The average house sold was £385,000, an increase of 14 per cent on last year, although in London, it jumped 25 per cent to £462,000.

## Bimec purchases

By OUR CITY STAFF

BIMEC Industries, the fast-growing USM pollution control-to-aerospace group, is making three acquisitions for a total of £5.2 million.

Bimec is buying Cornetco, a supplier of equipment and engineering services to aerospace and engineering manufacturers, which will be integrated within the aerospace technology division. It

is also buying Talbotbest, which designs, installs and maintains industrial pipework, ventilation equipment and heating systems and which will join the environmental building services division.

In addition, Bimec is acquiring Eta Process Plant, which will join Bimec's pollution-control division.

## Transport hits US durables

From JOHN DURIE  
IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN durable goods orders slumped sharply in June but for the second quarter showed a 10.8 per cent increase underlining the build-up in manufacturing goods inventories in the second quarter.

The June figures, which showed a 3.9 per cent drop compared with market expect-

ations of a slight increase, were mainly hurt by a 4.8 per cent slump in transport orders reflected primarily in the aircraft sector.

Stephen Roach, a Morgan Stanley economist, said: "This is a notoriously volatile indicator, but the strong gains in the second quarter against an 18 per cent drop in first-quarter orders, shows a bounce back still below last year's level."

Tomorrow, the US commerce department is due to release its second-quarter GNP estimate, with Mr Roach predicting a 1.8 per cent growth following the



# Sir Leon moves to Disneyland

## COMMENT

Continental carmakers' campaign to protect their national markets from Japanese competition by fair means or foul is relentless. The European Commission's opinion that the sale of land to build the Toyota factory near Derby was an unfair subsidy can only be explained as yet another attempt to harry Britain's new Japanese-owned motor factories. It certainly does not make sense in terms of Sir Leon Brittan's high profile campaign to cut discretionary state subsidies to industry.

If the sale of the 280-acre airfield site by Derbyshire County Council for £18.3 million was below market value, that was at least within the realms of arguments between valuers. The amounts involved were also insignificant in terms of a £700 million project.

The commission seems to have started an investigation on the strength of an anonymous letter in February. In doing so, Sir Leon has shown no consistency.

If he really wanted to look at distorting subsidies, he should turn to the giant theme park

complexes for which European countries are now competing. The proposed MCA film/leisure complex is likely to go either to the Essex marshes or Paris according to which government comes up with the best subsidy offers. The winner is likely to have to pay out about £250 million in land reclamation, transport links or other subsidies.

The French government's lure for Euro Disneyland was even more striking. Apart from providing free high-speed rail links, generous tax breaks and planning aids to maintaining monopoly, it sold EuroDisney about 4,800 acres at 1971 farmland prices.

Perhaps the EC, in pandering to smokestack interventionists, does not regard leisure as an industry. Owners of hotels and attractions in areas from which customers of the subsidised complexes will be drawn might remind him that their competitive business is being

distorted without Brussels showing any noticeable interest.

## Damn lies

A working party of the Royal Statistical Society has been studying the alleged "crisis of confidence" in government statistics. According to Professor Peter Moore, the working party's chairman, "There is a widely held view by the public at large that much statistical information is not of the quality that many users would expect and that, in some instances, it is being used subjectively in the domain of public policy."

Few will dissent from Mr Moore's analysis, but solutions are another matter. It would be nice to think, as the society seems

to, that the answer was simply to wave a wand over the way the collection of statistics is organised. In a report published yesterday, the society recommends a four-part package involving greater centralisation and control, a new research unit to strengthen methodology, the creation of an advisory national statistical commission to bridge the gap between statisticians and the providers and users of statistics, and a new statistics act to safeguard statisticians' autonomy.

The problem, however, surely lies more with the quality of statistics than with the independence of statisticians. As the former head of the Central Statistical Office, Sir Claus Moser, said, politicians have always wanted to influence statistics and no doubt always

will. Redefining the unemployment statistics to achieve a miraculous fall in the numbers out of work may be crude, but so long as the nature of the changes is not concealed it is difficult to say that the public has been misled.

The more serious deficiencies are in the numbers themselves. If Nigel Lawson had known in the spring of 1988 how rapidly demand was growing, interest rates would surely have gone up rather than down and taxes would have been cut by less. If we knew how to allocate the £15 billion "balancing item" for errors and omissions in the balance of payments, Britain's current account deficit might look radically different, although in what direction we cannot be sure.

The costs of bad policy decisions are incalculable. It must be right, as the chancellor has promised, to devote more resources to calculating key

## Easy Street

The rights issue that may leave BDDP, the French advertising agency, with a controlling stake of almost half in the Broad Street PR group is yet another example of Gallic ingenuity in gaining control of London-quoted companies without making a bid or paying a bid premium. The Woodchester finance group has just gone the same way, although perhaps the most notorious case was the merger of the former Metal Box packaging interests into the French-controlled CMB packaging group. It is all perfectly legitimate. The rights issue route, like the reverse takeover, routinely gains a Takeover Panel waiver from a compulsory bid under Rule 9 of the takeover code provided shareholders vote for the issue.

JOHN Wakeham, the energy secretary, told power industry employees' representatives, when we met him, that he had no alternative but to consider an offer for PowerGen if Hanson made one. This, however, is not so.

All he had to do was rest on government policy, established by his predecessor, Cecil Parkinson, that no person or organisation would be allowed to hold more than 15 per cent of the share value of PowerGen, National Power or the Scottish companies. It was, Mr Parkinson explained to parliament and ourselves, a "timeless" commitment. In fact, it has lasted less than two years.

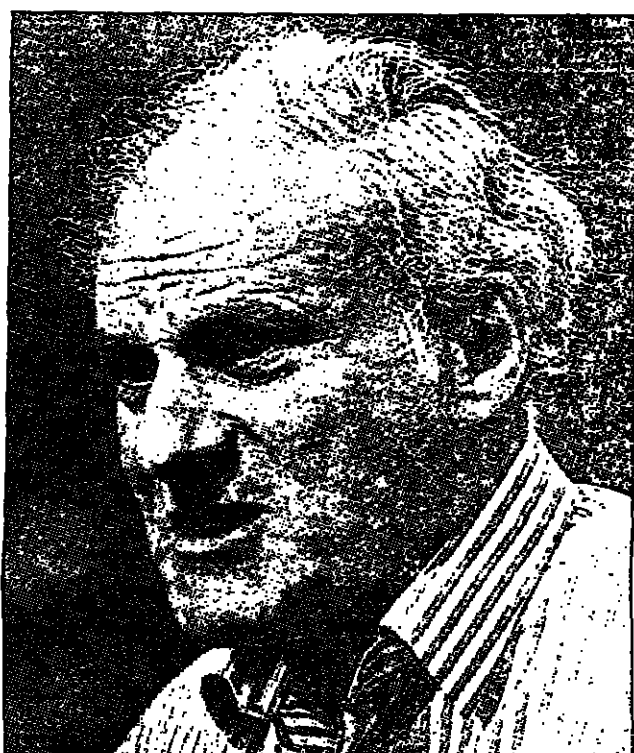
That pledge to parliament and the public was also a pledge to the staff of the companies concerned. The great majority of them have (rightly, in my view) never believed that privatisation of electricity supply would benefit the public. But the staff accepted the political decision and got on with running the industry efficiently, while simultaneously turning it upside down to suit the government's ever-changing plans. (Incidentally, the sheer professionalism with which management and staff have done this is a staggering achievement, of which no-one outside the industry has any concept.)

Everyone did this in the firm belief that they would be members of free-standing companies owned by a wide section of the British public. If it had been known that it was all to enable their companies to be auctioned to the highest bidder, I think the attitude would have been very different. The government's breach of faith has not only been with the public, but with the industry's employees.

Perhaps that breach has been with the staff of PowerGen. Now that Mr Wakeham has indicated that National Power, as well, can be sold as a job lot if there is a bidder, its employees may find themselves in the same boat, as may the staff of the two Scottish companies waiting to be floated.

Attention has so far been focused on the interest in PowerGen by Hanson. However, it emerged on Monday that PowerGen and National Power could be bought by foreign owners if any come up

## Power sale fails tests of honour and competence



John Lyons: government is guilty of breach of faith with a suitable bid. Who envisaged that when Mr Parkinson proudly unveiled his white paper in February 1988?

If one looks back at the process of privatising electricity supply, one sees a wretched tale of incompetence from the beginning, going far beyond the unforgivable mismanagement of the country's nuclear industry.

Originally, the obligation to supply (to plan ahead to ensure adequate supplies of electricity for the future) was transferred from the Central Electricity Generating Board to the distribution companies. That has since been scrapped. A totally untested market mechanism (resting on the

generator, at least, by auction, when it was intended at the start that the British people should be able to buy shares in all parts of the industry. True, they already own it, but little conceptual difficulties like that have been effortlessly obliterated.

The fundamental flaw in the whole concept, however, has been the view that generation of electricity is a suitable activity for competition. It is not, and cannot be. The risk (and cost) associated with generating electricity is too great for anyone to engage in it without a guaranteed market.

As John Harris, chairman of East Midlands Electricity, said in *The Observer* on July 22: "New generating companies need long-term contracts to secure a place in the market."

Without long-term contracts, the risk is too great. With them, you cannot have real competition (except at the margin). That is the nub of the matter, and the government has proceeded with its plans for privatisation oblivious of that simple truth. In every other advanced industrial country, generation of electricity is based on a territorial monopoly, irrespective of whether it is a private or public monopoly.

This fundamental misconception about the nature of generating led the government to deny National Power and PowerGen the opportunity to strike long-term contracts for supplies in order to "make room" for others to enter the market.

However, while (as we forecast) "the others" are not coming in, except at the margin, National Power and PowerGen have been seen by the City and others as relatively risky investments, even though the value of their assets has been slashed to ridiculous levels to make them a suitable giveaway.

The outcome of all this, by the way, will be, as we have predicted from the start, higher-cost electricity, less reliably supplied. I hope that the public will understand why so many of the staff of a great and efficient public industry feel thoroughly disenchanted by what has been done to it.

John Lyons  
General Secretary  
Engineers' and Managers' Association

## Lasmo lets the side down

### TEMPUS

LASMO outperformed the FT-All Share Index by 8 per cent in the first half of 1990, and the oil sector by 13 per cent. Against that background, interim net profits of £32 million, a clear £2 million below expectations, were a poor reward for followers of the stock.

Weak sterling oil prices during the second quarter, virtually unchanged from last year, and the slow recovery of production from the Claymore field in the North Sea played a key role in restricting growth.

There was also a notable absence of new discoveries and net probable and proven reserves were unchanged at 433 million barrels of oil-equivalent. With daily production rising to an average of 81,700 barrels of oil-equivalent, a record, amortisation increased by 53 per cent to £51.2 million, almost double the rate of increase in operating costs.

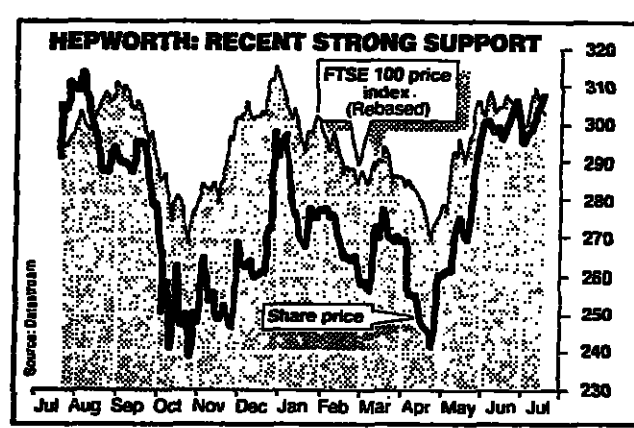
The 2.2p interim dividend was also lower than anticipated, although Chris Green, the chief executive, would argue that shareholders should not expect to benefit from possible reserves which have not yet been tapped.

Mr Green has been a consistent oil price hawk, and the Middle East lurching towards another political crisis, his argument that prices will inevitably trend upwards are difficult to refute.

He is also confident that Lasmo's aggressive exploration and development in frontier areas such as Vietnam and Indonesia will come good. Better news is expected during the second half.

Financially, Lasmo is stronger than ever before. Capital expenditure doubled to £109 million, but cash flow from operations rose from £41 million to £74 million. The £10 million loan, received in return for the Enterprise stake less than two years ago, generated £24.4 million, which, with foreign exchange gains and other investment income, fully offset an interest charge of £36 million.

In the second half, Lasmo can reasonably expect better



average prices than the \$17.73 per barrel of oil received during the first six months. In the North Sea, Claymore should return to peak production levels before year-end.

Full-year net income of £71 million is within striking distance, putting the shares, down 3p to 44.5p, after touching 46.0p, on a prospective p/e of 22.8. They look fully valued and profits should be taken at the first hint of oil price weakness.

NOBODY gets wind of a change in the housebuilding market sooner than Hepworth. As the manufacturer of four in every five clay pipes for the British construction industry, it has its own built-in early warning system.

So it was that Hepworth was preparing for a downturn in housing before the end of 1988, and is today weathering the storm better than most, if not all, of its competitors.

Profits of £50.1 million for the first half of 1990, against £53.3 million, can be hailed as an achievement in the building supplies sector.

Just how badly its main competitors are faring will not be known for another month or two, but it is hard to find an encouraging word for the prospects of the likes of Marley and Norcross.

Profits from Hepworth's home products in Britain, its Glow-worm and Parkray equipment, dropped by a fifth to about £8 million as the number of people moving home fell by 45 per cent.

Returns from the industrial and commercial sector held up, although conditions are slowly starting to deteriorate. The big success was the overseas market, now contributing 42 per cent of turnover and 35 per cent of profits.

Overseas profits almost compensated for the downturn, caused by the housing downturn in Britain. May and June revenues failed to cover the financing costs of April's £153 million acquisition of Saurer Duval, the gas boiler firm, but as the weather cools in the autumn that firm should start regenerating.

Nevertheless, the group will be resigned to making less money this year than last, and will do well to top £100 million before tax. Debt stood at £76 million at end-June, representing a gearing level of 53 per cent. By year-end it should be trimmed back below 50 per cent.

Hepworth shares have rallied powerfully since the widely-approved April acquisition, and at 30.6p, sell for more than nine times earnings. They deserve the rating, and not just for the 6.5 per cent yield.

## Aegis

AEGIS, the former WCRS advertising agency, looks ever more like the McDonald's of media buying. The £9 million acquisition of Media Holdings International, Scandinavia's largest media buyer, means that within Europe, only Greece and, rather strangely, the Netherlands have yet to be penetrated by the ever-

expanding Aegis network — although not for long, if industry gossip is anything to go by.

Where other British companies are merely talking, Aegis has already acted. About DM20 million of East German business has already been transacted by the company, and there are plans in progress to attack the Polish, Hungarian and Czechoslovak markets once their television stations have been privatised.

With interim pre-tax profits bang on target at £34.6 million, 58 per cent up on last year, the analysts are happy with progress to date, even if they still do not quite understand the Aegis animal. Full-year profits forecasts are unusually closely bunched at a million or so on either side of £70 million, and for the time being the market is happy to believe the management's story of an ever-growing and more complex European media-buying market.

Neither will there be any complaints about the dividend, which, in line with the company's stated policy of matching the market yield, was increased by 58 per cent to 2.75p, well ahead of the 31 per cent increase in earnings per share to 17.51p.

A re-rating has been predicted since last year's extraordinarily complex restructuring, which transformed the group from yet another set of initials in a bombed-out sector to the market leader in a high-growth industry. A 15 per cent increase in the share price over the past six weeks suggests that this may now be under way, with perhaps another 10 per cent to come. That would take the multiple up to around the eight mark, still well below the market, but well ahead of the rubbish in the sector.

The Paris listing planned for later this year may be another plus point. About 35 per cent of the shares are in French hands, and media buyers are rated in the high teens on the French market.

With the interest charge covered a healthy five times, the shares look good value for the short term.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Former foes in Paribas camp

PETER Grodzinski, the specialist property salesman who styles himself "Grod" on his business cards, has been out of the limelight since MEPC took over Oldham Estates, the master company of the legendary Harry Hyams. Each year Grod would take a freshly-cooked pastry from the family bakery to Oldham Estate's annual meeting, and present it with a great deal of ceremony to the ever charming, if secretive, Mr Hyams. Grod was still at Hoare Govett when it defended Hammerson, the British property group, from a hostile takeover bid by Rodamco, the Dutch investment group, but he is about to find himself in the same camp as one of his former adversaries. Grod, aged 40 and bearded, left Hoare Govett after ten years and, on Monday, starts work at Banque Paribas. Another recruit to the London office of the French bank is Jan Vet, also a property salesman, who was previously employed by Rodamco. With Vet due to start in August, after he has completed a French language course, it will mean that Paribas now has a three-strong property sales team to work alongside analysts Nareesh Gudka and Ray Jones. "Prop-

erty has long been an area of expertise for us as a broker, going right back to the old Quiller days," says a spokesman, "and Paribas is also strongly aligned to the property sector as a bank, not just in France but all over the world." Another well-known City character, Noel Mercer, the British equity salesman, is also joining Paribas. Mercer, an Irishman, aged 41, resigned from Panmure Gordon in May, after 11 years with the firm, following a difference of opinion over management. He was one of the firm's biggest commission earners. "We are delighted that he is coming on board," says Chris Cartwright, head of equities at Paribas.

### Caps off to Walker

GEORGE Walker, the chairman of Brent Walker, who, with his brother Billy, was once better known as a boxer, is still fighting fit, both personally and corporately. Walker, aged 61, who acknowledges that most companies are increasingly talking about recession, claims that his flourishing leisure group has yet to feel the pinch. "People might not be moving house or even going away on holiday, but they are certainly spending money when it comes to a night out," he says. "Our beer sales are up, our hotel occu-

pancy is up and the average drop in our casinos has also increased." But he admits that the real reason they are not suffering is because he had the foresight to cap most of Brent Walker's borrowings when interest rates were below 10 per cent. "I remember 1974 and 1981 and the one thing I learned then is that I can live with 10 per cent money, but not 17, 18 or 20 per cent like last time. I nearly sank Brent Walker. So now every time I can cap at below 10 per cent I do so. When rates were 8 per cent I couldn't wait to recap at 8 per cent. If I can cap at rates like that for seven years, I know I'm going to be safe." Of Walker's £725 million of debts, £600 million are, he says, now capped at an average rate of 9.7 per cent.

SO MUCH for English being the common language of Europe... a young reporter from CNN, fresh from America, and who wants to remain anonymous, dashed into a bar in Berlin and asked for a dry Martini. The barman poured three Martinis.

### Who did what

TINY Rowland will be less than pleased, but so will Mohammed Al-Fayed. For the first time, Al-Fayed has been included in the latest edition of the *International*

Who's Who, published today. The entry, however, includes some of the facts unearthed about the "Egyptian businessman" during the DTT's investigation. It describes his previous career appointments, for instance, as "a former salesman for Singer sewing machines", and then, "employed by Adnan Khashoggi, 1953-57". Richard Fitzwilliams, editor of the reference book, first published in 1935, says that he would have included Al-Fayed in earlier editions, "since he has owned Harrods for some time now", but all attempts to get him to complete a biographical information form fell on stony ground. "I first sent him a form two or three years ago but he didn't complete it," says Fitzwilliams. "Then I contacted the Harrods press office, but still got no reply. Eventually we pieced it together ourselves from the DTT report and an article in *The Times*."

### Colgan miscast

THE Irish are famous for their parties, and Allied Irish Bank lived up to expectations on Tuesday, at the first night performance of the *Three Sisters*, the Chekhov play it is sponsoring at the Royal Court. The bank has brought the play from the Gate Theatre in Dublin, where it received rave

reviews since the title roles are played by three real-life sisters, Sorcha, Niamh and Sinead Cusack. Not to be left out, their father, Cyril Cusack, plays Ivan Romanovich, a drunken army doctor. There was a ripple of amusement when Tom Carey, AIB's British corporate development manager and the host for the evening, thanked Michael Colgan for his direction. Adrian Noble, the play's real director, did not seem to mind, but looked decidedly happier when Mr Colgan, the head of the Gate, set the record straight.

### Taxing patience

LONDON commuters who complain about British Rail should spare a sympathetic thought for their fellow travellers on Teesside, who were forced to switch from a train to a taxi for the 20-mile journey from Hartlepool to Darlington on Monday morning. And it was all because a relief driver had not been "signed on" for that particular route, which means that he could not be guaranteed to know the way. "Only a handful of people were involved," says a red-faced BR man in York, who then admitted that four taxis had to be put into service and that the cost was unknown as yet.

Carol Leonard

## USSR to clear German debt with Bonn aid

THE Soviet Union will pay back all its outstanding debt to West German companies by the end of this week, according to Dr Leonid Abalkin, the deputy Soviet prime minister.

Dr Abalkin said at a meeting with West German businessmen in Bonn that, of the DM1.5 billion which is currently owed to West German companies, about DM1 billion has already been paid back with the balance to be repaid during the next few days.

Dr Abalkin's announcement came less than two weeks after Dr Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, agreed to provide a government guarantee for a DM5 billion commercial bank loan to the Soviet Union.

The funds to repay the debts will come directly out of this loan, which has resulted in the ironic situation that West German banks will indirectly pay for Soviet debt to West German companies, all guaranteed by the West German government.

The Soviet Union, until the end of last year regarded as one of the world's most respected payers of international debts, ran out of foreign currency reserves at the beginning of this year.

The backlog of debt, in particular with companies from West Germany, the Soviet Union's largest Western trading partner, has already led to a downturn in

trade between the two countries. Particularly hard hit were West Germany's chemical industry and small to medium-sized companies which were heavily exposed to Soviet trade.

At least one small company has been forced to go out of business as a result of the repayment difficulties.

Dr Klaus Flat, a Soviet Union specialist at the Bonn economics ministry, said:

German banks will indirectly pay for Soviet debts to German companies, guaranteed by the Bonn government

"The Soviet Union is in the process of repaying accumulated debts in tranches. It is a very encouraging sign."

But when asked whether the Soviet Union's payment problems might return once the DM5 billion of funds guaranteed by West Germany has run out, he answered: "Probably yes."

He added that the guarantee is not aimed to provide a definite solution to the Soviet debt problem, but is meant only to give the country some breathing space until an international arrangement, involving the European community or the G7 countries, has been worked out.

During the community

summit in Dublin at the end of last month and the G7 meeting in Houston, Texas, Western leaders have agreed to set up working groups to study the Soviet Union's specific needs for financial assistance.

However, the United States and Britain are unenthusiastic about providing aid to the Soviet Union before the introduction of a wide-ranging economic reform programme.

The West Germans, however, were allowed to go ahead on a unilateral basis.

Dr Kohl took the opportunity to sign the government guarantee during his visit to the Soviet Union at the beginning of last week, when President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to a reunited Germany in Nato.

The West German government has consistently denied that the provision of the guarantee amounted to a financial settlement in return for clearing away the last remaining obstacle to German reunification.

British companies have also been affected by the delays, although to a smaller extent. British trade amounts to only about 15 per cent of German trade with Soviet Union. There is also a greater tendency for British companies to accept barter deals.

Wolfgang Münchauer  
European Business Correspondent







# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily claim prize. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Thames Water	Water	
2	Farmac (us)	Building/Roads	
3	Clide Pot	Oil/Gas	
4	Quadrant Group	Leisure	
5	Envi Group	Motor/Aircraft	
6	Norfolk	Industrials-LR	
7	Glaxo (us)	Industrials-FK	
8	Harratt (us)	Building/Roads	
9	Wessex Water	Water	
10	Holwood (us)	Leisure	
11	Repsol	Industrials-A-D	
12	Aut New Z	Bank/Discount	
13	Chirco (us)	Industrials-A-D	
14	Prochem	Bank/Discount	
15	Williams-Higgs (us)	Industrials-SZ	
16	Petroleum	Oil/Gas	
17	Greenwood	Building/Roads	
18	Thames Valley	Property	
19	Multinet Elect	Electricals	
20	BET Oil (us)	Industrials-A-D	
21	Wicks	Industrials-SZ	
22	Nat West (us)	Bank/Discount	
23	Sinclair (us)	Foodstuffs	
24	AB Food (us)	Foodstuffs	
25	Lloyds (us)	Bank/Discount	
26	Kwik Save	Foodstuffs	
27	Jardine Math	Industrials-LR	
28	Strong & Fisher	Shoes/Leather	
29	Nat West (us)	Bank/Discount	
30	Clifford Foods A	Foodstuffs	
31	Cookson (us)	Industrials-A-D	
32	St Petroleum (us)	Oil/Gas	
33	TI (us)	Industrials-SZ	
34	Cruda	Chemicals-Pls	
35	MB Group (us)	Industrials-LR	
36	Lea Refrigeration	Electricals	
37	Yorkshire Water	Water	
38	Br Vite	Industrials-A-D	
39	Whitcroft	Industrials-SZ	
40	Ultamar (us)	Oil/Gas	
41	Mark Spencer (us)	Foodstuffs	
42	Anglo Ind	Chemicals-Pls	
43	Severn-Trent	Water	
44	Crampin	Property	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

### Weekly Dividend

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

### BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### UNDATED

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### INDEX-LINKED

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### ELECTRICALS

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Equities end below best

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 23. Dealings end August 3. Contango day August 6. Settlement day August 13. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 24)

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### BREWERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### BUILDING, ROADS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### FINANCE, LAND

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### FOODS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### HOTELS, CATERERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### INDUSTRIALS A-D

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### S-Z

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### INSURANCE

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### LEISURE

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### MINING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### TEXTILES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### TOBACCO

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### TRANSPORT

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### OILS, GAS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### PROPERTY

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### SHOES, LEATHER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### OVERSEAS TRADERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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### WATER

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### WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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### WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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### WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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### WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND

£4,000

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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

### OVERSEAS TRADERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0

### PROPERTY

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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### SHOES, LEATHER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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### TEXTILES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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### TOBACCO

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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### TRANSPORT

SHOES, LEATHER									
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## GOODWILL GAMES

## View from top less than spectacular for in-between man

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, SEATTLE

YOU need only see one thing in Seattle to see everything, claims the brochure for the Seattle Space Needle. Rising high above the city, it offers spectacular views from its revolving observation deck. While the Goodwill Games are on, an outside gold medal has been hung around its neck.

Michael Johnson was content with the standard size on Tuesday after winning the 200 metres, but his view from the top made you wonder why he had bothered to climb the steps. "The 100 metres and the 400 metres are the glamour events," he said. "The 200 is just stuck somewhere in between."

But Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis work at making the 100 metres glamorous. Johnson goes about his business quietly. Burrell and Lewis talk about world records and ex-

ude enthusiasm. Johnson does not. "I am not after the world record," he said. "This year I am only interested in winning my races."

Which is not what most of the public is interested in. Johnson, aged 22, has had a brilliant season, losing only once and, remarkably, running 19.85sec on a chilly evening in Edinburgh. Here he ran 19.54sec to beat Robson da Silva, last year's World Cup winner, for a man representing his country for the first time, it was no less an achievement than Burrell's in beating Lewis the day before.

Johnson should have been out on the track half an hour earlier to see what a world record can do to stimulate interest. And which event was it that brought the greatest day of the night? The women's 10 kilometres walk, because

Nadezhda Ryashkina, of the Soviet Union, was travelling at world record speed. Ryashkina is aged 23 and \$15,000 richer for setting a world record at this meeting. The women's 10 kilometres walk is now an Olympic event, so the Soviet Federation supports Ryashkina as a full-time athlete. She needs it, too: 110 miles walking a week, in training, is a lot of hours away from the office.

Her time was 41min 56.21sec, which was annoying for Kerry Saxby. The Australian was second in 41min 57.22sec, walking faster than ever before but losing her world record. Still, must not be greedy. Saxby has set 28 world records.

The best performance of the eight events on the fourth day of the format is a straight final in every event, with competition spread over six days — came from Yelena Romanova, another Soviet. She became the tenth fastest 5,000 metres woman of all time, and the quickest this year, with 15min 02.23sec in only her second outing at the distance.

On the previous day, Romanova had finished second to Partisue Plumer in the 3,000 metres. Romanova improved her time by 12sec with a last lap of 68sec. The crowd knew they were to a good thing as soon as it was announced that their only gold medal girl, Mary Slaney, was about to lose her record for the fastest time run in the United States.

The Games continue to be advertised as "a unification of the best athletes in the world". Without one Briton here, that is a gross misrepresentation. Like a US Open without Faldo.

## Tikhonenko is an inspiration

SEATTLE (Reuters) — The Soviet Union beat the United States basketball team 92-85 at the Goodwill Games thanks to an outstanding display by Valeri Tikhonenko.

Tikhonenko was the only survivor from the victorious 1988 Olympic team which relegated the Americans to the bronze, and the Soviets used their weary defence to prevail in their second game.

Tikhonenko scored 30 points.

DETROIT: Sergei Fedorov, the Soviet Union ice hockey player who was reported missing at the Games, is in Detroit and has applied with United States immigration officials for a travel permit. Officials of the Detroit Red Wings said on Tuesday (Reuters reports).

## Dominant Biondi adds fourth gold

SEATTLE (Reuters) — Matt Biondi, who has been an Olympic champion five times, won two gold medals to bring his total to four, while conqueror Summer Sanders added a third on the final day of swimming at the Goodwill Games.

Biondi won the 100 metres freestyle in 49.02sec, well outside his world record of 48.42sec, but still the fourth fastest time ever. Well behind were Gennadi Prigoda and Yuri Baskakov, of the Soviet Union, who recorded 49.98sec and 50.30sec respectively.

Biondi, aged 24, who also picked up a silver medal, now holds the nine best times ever in the 100 metres freestyle, and has not been beaten in the event since 1984.

"I think I had a great performance here," Biondi said. "I really worked hard and wanted to show everybody here how good Matt Biondi is. I did not do everything I wanted to do here and that's a little disappointing."

Biondi said he had geared his training towards setting a world record in the 100 metres butterfly, and that he would not compete in the American national championships later this month in Texas. He finished a

disappointing second in the butterfly, behind Anthony Nesty, of Surinam.

Sanders, aged 27, a newcomer to the United States, beat the world champion of the meeting with her win in the 200 metres butterfly on Tuesday. She won in 2min 09.46sec, an impressive five seconds ahead of the Soviet, Natalya Yakovleva. Kathleen Nord, of East Germany, the 1988 Olympic gold medal winner, was third.

Earlier in the meeting, Sanders upset Olympic champions Janet Evans, in the 400 metres individual medley, and Daniela Hunger, of East Germany, in the 200 metres individual medley.

"I'm shocked. I didn't think I'd have a chance at one gold, let alone three," Sanders said.

An expected close contest in the men's 1,500 metres freestyle failed to materialise as the East German, Jörg Hoffmann, won in a lacklustre 15min 11.44sec. Mats Wilander, of Sweden, gave the East German women their only individual gold medal of the five-day swimming competition, winning the 200 metres freestyle in 2min 00.38sec, the fastest time this year. American swimmer dominated the competition, winning 20 gold, 18 silver and four bronze medals.

## RESULTS FROM SEATTLE

ATHLETICS: Men: 200m: M. Johnson (USA), 19.54; 400m: D. Sanders (USA), 1:59.85; 800m: D. Sanders (USA), 4:47.02; 1,500m: J. Hoffmann (GER), 15:11.44; 5,000m: Y. Romanova (USSR), 15:02.23; 10,000m: N. Ryashkina (USSR), 41:56.21; 20,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 1:21:56.21; 30,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 1:51:56.21; 40,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 2:21:56.21; 50,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 2:51:56.21; 60,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 3:21:56.21; 70,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 3:51:56.21; 80,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 4:21:56.21; 90,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 4:51:56.21; 100,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 5:21:56.21; 110,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 5:51:56.21; 120,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 6:21:56.21; 130,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 6:51:56.21; 140,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 7:21:56.21; 150,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 7:51:56.21; 160,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 8:21:56.21; 170,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 8:51:56.21; 180,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 9:21:56.21; 190,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 9:51:56.21; 200,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 10:21:56.21; 210,000m: K. Saxby (AUS), 10:51:56.21; 220,000m: K. 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Raj Singh gambles with a mixture of experience and youth to secure victory as his team changes approach for the Test series

# India seek to recapture old glory at Lord's

By VIJAY RANA

AS THE Indians return to Lord's, where they won the World Cup in 1983 and beat England in a Test in 1986, there are great expectations back home. These were the finest moments in Indian cricket history. Indian immigrants at Lord's waved tricolour flags and to the horror of the MCC there were many pitch invasions.

The 1986, celebrations were merely a microscopic representation of what happened in India's cricket capital, Bombay, where more than half the population live in poverty and disease in infested slums. For a few hours, their habitual gloom disappeared.

Crowds gathered in streets, sweets were distributed and fireworks exploded. Bombay was not alone. In almost all the big cities, people rejoiced at the remarkable success of their boys in England.

Those who create the passion of cricket among India's countless supporters are often required to pay a price. They are national heroes. They are loved by the press and gossiped about by the press. They write less about cricket and more about cricket. Raj Singh Dungarpur, the

chairman of the cricket selection committee, said, "That is modern Indian journalism: always more interested in politicians than political issues."

Cricket is as unpredictable as Indian politics. Raj Singh knows this. Yet he has taken a gamble by sending an inexperienced team to England. He calls it "a team for the future and a team for the Nineties."

So far, the combination of experience and youth seems to be working. They know that the Tests will be different from chasing a target in a one-day international. While Azharuddin, the captain, Vengsarkar, Shastri and Manjrekar will try to stay longer at the wicket, the hard-hitting opener, Sidhu, Sachin Tendulkar,

aged 17, and Kapil Dev must improve the run rate.

Such is the depth of batting that even More, the wicketkeeper, Kapil Dev's new-ball partner, Manoj Prabhakar, and the leg-spinner, Anil Kumble, might each score 40 runs.

India's two great little masters have been watching the ball pretty carefully. Azharuddin seems to have more faith in the sound batting techniques of Manjrekar than the youthful impetuosity of Tendulkar.

The greatest expectation of this match would be a fourth Test century at the ground for Vengsarkar. His first century at Lord's (103 in 1979) could be described as lucky, the second (157 in 1982) was fortunate, but

the third (126 in 1986) was the result of sheer determination. In the twilight of his career, he still retains a cool and quiet temperament.

Unlike Clive Lloyd, Azharuddin is not a father-figure. He has neither the experience of Graham Gooch nor the personal authority of Imran Khan. He does not have the stature of Sunil Gavaskar nor the popularity of Kapil Dev and many believe he has been given too much and too early. Could the strains of captaincy affect his form?

He politely brushes aside such doubts. "I am basically a very easy going man and I don't get pressurised easily. And I do not go to bat as a captain. I go there as a player only, and try my best." He

was rightly judged as man of the series in the one-day internationals.

Azharuddin has three former captains, Kapil Dev, Vengsarkar and Shastri, in his team. Do they take his command? They are good friends, he says. Besides, these former captains have their own reputations to defend.

In Raj Singh's reign, no one is sacred. Another captain, Srikkanth, was dropped after his dismal performance in Pakistan, and Vengsarkar and Shastri were both recently forced to rest. And one must not forget that Indian cricket is plagued by personal rivalries.

If India regain the form of 1986, the country would rejoice and millions would forget, at least for a moment, the

few hours, their struggle for survival. If they fail, they will return to Bombay anonymously and unnoticed. Many would be cursing them for bringing national shame. It happened with Ajit Wadekar, who, after his victories in West Indies and in England in 1971, was hailed as India's greatest captain, but who was thrown into oblivion after his defeat in England in 1974.

Azharuddin says: "To beat England in England is not an easy job, but we will strive hard to do that."

● Vijay Rana is a sports broadcaster and senior producer in BBC World Service in Hindi. He was the producer and director of the documentary 'Our Boys in England'.

Wells has grounds to appreciate new venue

By RICHARD STRETON

ARUNDEL (first day of three): Sussex won (first day) by 342 runs. The match was a record for the venue, with 1,000 spectators. The ground is a beautiful one, with a large crowd of 1,000 spectators. The match was a record for the venue, with 1,000 spectators. The ground is a beautiful one, with a large crowd of 1,000 spectators.

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## Hick's unbeaten run ends short of record

By STEPHEN THORPE

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plussed when dismissed before. Not for the usual reasons one must add, more because Base had actually contrived to deliver a good ball, after a comical succession of bad ones. Then Curris, who had already had his right thumb fractured, was removed by a lifer.

Hick trode in to polite applause and some confusion surrounding the record-breaking requirements. The sequence could not continue, or could it? Genius, of course, rides roughshod over normal parameters of play and performance. His square and late cuts, despatched with a wristy, downward scyth of the blade are a constant joy, but the true beauty of his repertoire lies in the modicum of effort implied in the shot-making. There is rarely a hint of violence or outright aggression; elegance, economy and timing are all.

Worcestershire were only 78 for two off 37 overs at lunch but Hick later crept past Patsy Hendren's total of 630 without being out in 1929-30. However, having reached 53, he was brought to book by Warner, when Adams held a splendid catch at slip, high above his head, from a full-blooded slash.

Barnett joined the attack and a competent spell of leg spin, largely flat but wholly accurate, brought him the wicket of Botham, who floated a catch to cover via the leading edge. There must now be grave doubt about his ability to recapture an England place. But miracles, as we know, are not beyond him and one can but hope.

Base, then contributed a lengthy spell of off spin before reverting to seam up with the new ball to finish with a season's best of five for 100. D'Oliveira laboured a long time over 87 and Neale made 65.

Essex find it harder this time

By SIMON WILDE

Essex, with three successive championship wins behind them, were made to struggle at Grace Road yesterday by Leicestershire, against whom they made 761 for six at Chelmsford in May (Geoffrey Wheeler writes). Essex could muster no more than 197, with four wickets in hand, for 73, and Benjamin four for 51.

Northamptonshire were another team to be dismissed before tea, bundled out for 150 at Cheltenham by the Gloucestershire trio of Walsh, Lawrence and Curran. There were five catches behind the wicket for Jack Russell's deputy, Richard Williams, who scamped up his namesake after he had made 47, starting a collapse which saw the last five wickets fall for 14.

Gloucestershire, still to win a match this season, will never have a better chance, for they are 31 ahead with eight first-innings wickets in hand. For Essex, the Gloucestershire trio of Walsh, Lawrence and Curran, there were five catches behind the wicket for Jack Russell's deputy, Richard Williams, who scamped up his namesake after he had made 47, starting a collapse which saw the last five wickets fall for 14.

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Essex find it harder this time

By SIMON WILDE

Essex, with three successive championship wins behind them, were made to struggle at Grace Road yesterday by Leicestershire, against whom they made 761 for six at Chelmsford in May (Geoffrey Wheeler writes). Essex could muster no more than 197, with four wickets in hand, for 73, and Benjamin four for 51.

Northamptonshire were another team to be dismissed before tea, bundled out for 150 at Cheltenham by the Gloucestershire trio of Walsh, Lawrence and Curran. There were five catches behind the wicket for Jack Russell's deputy, Richard Williams, who scamped up his namesake after he had made 47, starting a collapse which saw the last five wickets fall for 14.

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Report on changes in South Africa sport could be the first step towards the return of the republic to the international arena

# Ramsamy explains his S Africa mission

By JOHN GOODBODY

SAM Ramsamy, for many years a leading campaigner to isolate South Africa in international sport, yesterday insisted he would have "an open mind" when he came to write his report that could be decisive in the return of South Africa to international sport.

Ramsamy, who was a central figure in the controversy over Zola Budd, the South African-born runner who ran for Britain, the unofficial cricket tour of South Africa by Mike Gatting this year, and the boycott of the 1976 Olympic Games - is returning to South Africa for the first time since 1972, when he left after learning of investigations by the police into his anti-apartheid activities.

As executive chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), he has been charged by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Af-

rica (Anoca) to write the report. It will be considered at a meeting of Anoca in Harare later this year.

The move has the support of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which sees the South African problem as one to be solved by the Africans themselves. Ramsamy is due to recommend to Anoca the leading South African officials who would be available to attend the conference in Zimbabwe.

Immediately after leaving South Africa, he will go to the Congo to talk with Jean-Claude Ganga, the Anoca president and another leading figure in the isolation of South Africa. Ramsamy said: "It is obviously my ambition to see South Africa admitted to the Olympic Games and to international sport. All my work has been towards that end. It is simply a matter of whether the conditions are yet right."

"South Africa certainly needs the Olympic Games, and I think the Games themselves would benefit from the

country's participation. There are vast numbers of talented sportsmen and women in South Africa. However, the reason I have campaigned against South Africa being allowed to participate is that there are more important considerations than sporting prowess."

Ramsamy told *The Times* that these were basic principles of fair play and justice. "Apartheid is not just a political system," he said. "It permeates all levels of society, including sport."

He said that schooling was overwhelmingly on a segregated basis and all the best facilities and opportunities existed largely, if not exclusively, in white schools.

Ramsamy stressed that there had been a lot of changes, particularly in recent years. He said: "These changes have facilitated my trip to South Africa next month. If these changes had not taken place, then it would not have been worth my while to go there. It is up to me to evaluate whether they have gone far enough to warrant the South African issue to be reviewed by Anoca."

The position of Anoca was made clear in June during the IOC meeting in Barcelona: the re-admission of South Africa to the Olympic movement depended on the eradication of apartheid and



Setting objectives: Ramsamy outlines plans to discover whether South Africa should return to international fold

## Blow to Britain as Clarke's horse receives a knock

From JENNY MACARTHUR, STOCKHOLM

LORNA Clarke, a team gold medal winner at the European championships last year and one of Britain's most experienced event riders, has had to withdraw from the world three-day event championships, which start here today, after her horse, Fearliah Mor, knocked himself during a final gallop on Monday night at Taby racecourse.

Mrs Clarke, who faced a similar disappointment at the Seoul Olympics two years ago, said yesterday: "It's only a slight knock but it just wasn't worth the risk of running him."

Lord Patrick Beresford, the chief d'equipe, who described Mrs Clarke's withdrawal as "an enormous loss to the team", has replaced her with Karen Straker on Get Smart, team silver medal winners in Seoul in 1988. They have the arduous task of going first for Britain over Saturday's cross-country course.

Rodney Powell and The Irishman will go second in the team with Virginia Leng, the defending world champion, and Ian Stark filling third and fourth places respectively.

which begin with the dressage today.

Britain's hopes in the world team dressage championships, which also take place today and tomorrow, were buoyant yesterday after the team's performance in the warm-up class. Anni MacDonald-Hall and Floriano finished a point in front of Jennie Loriston-Clarke on Dutch Gold in sixteenth and seventeenth place, both having been harshly marked by the Russian judge.

Carl Hester, who rode his test on Tuesday, was the best of the British, finishing in joint eleventh place. Britain, together with the West Germans, the favourites, and the Russians, were the only countries out of the 16 competing to have three riders with marks of over 1,000.

RESULTS: Dressage: Intermediate II (four-day event): 1, J. Brady (Just More Fun, USA); 2, D. Bedford (Parrot, USA); 3, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 4, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 5, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 6, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 7, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 8, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 9, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 10, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 11, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 12, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 13, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 14, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 15, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 16, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 17, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 18, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 19, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 20, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 21, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 22, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 23, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 24, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 25, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 26, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 27, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 28, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 29, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 30, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 31, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 32, J. Rogers (Rogers, USA); 33, J. 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